Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Castro Cited on Perestroyka, Rectification

PA2407151488 Paris AFP in Spanish 1349 GMT 24 Jul 88

[Report by Bertrand Rosenthal and Alfredo Munoz-Unsain]

[Excerpt] Havana, 24 Jul (AFP)—Foreign visitors ask why perestroyka has not reached Cuba and they get a response: It is a Soviet remedy for Soviet ills and Cuba has its own medicine: the process of rectification of errors.

President Fidel Castro has issued the prescription: The Cuban revolution "is not obligated to copy anything from anybody," and since it is at the doors of "imperialism," it cannot commit "strategic errors" such as "using capitalist methods" in socialism. According to the Cuban leader, "problems must also be resolved with honor, morals, and principles."

According to a formula of the late Ernesto Che Guevara, which was reinstated as a basis of the process of rectification of errors, the human being "is not only moved by economic elements; his communist awareness must also be stimulated." [passage omitted]

Castro Continues Tour of Santiago de Cuba

FL2507225388 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has been in Santiago de Cuba Province for 24 hours now. He arrived yesterday in Contramaestre municipality, where he inaugurated the modern Orlando Pantoja Hospital, which he called a jewel. The chief of the revolution already visited Palma Soriano. He inaugurated a liquid animal feed plant and a group of livestock-agricultural projects which include 25 camps for youths of the Youth Labor Army, 30 hydroponic fields, 454 houses for agricultural workers, and a bull feeding center.

Fidel, always accompanied by Esteban Lazo, member of the PCC Politburo and first secretary of the party in Santiago de Cuba, also toured the Palma Soriano match factory, with experimental production, and the new hospitals of San Luis and Julio Antonio Mella municipalities. Early this morning, the first secretary of the party also visited the hydroponic fields of Santiago Fruit Enterprise, located on the outkirts of the city. This enterprise has allotted its first tomato production to the people of Santiago.

At the time this newscast was being prepared, Fidel was touring the large installations of the new Retomed medical equipment factory. Its production, together with the one in the capital, has already filled the needs of family doctors offices, which are now almost all over the entire province.

Tours Airport

FL2507203588 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, toured important social and economic projects in Santiago de Cuba during the 3d day of his working visit to the host province for the main ceremony of the Moncada Barracks Assault anniversary.

The leader of the revolution and his entourage visited the Antonio Maceo International Airport. They toured the modern terminal and were given an overview of the expansion and remodeling of the flight line and of the highway construction which will link the airport to the southeastern part of Santiago de Cuba. It is scheduled to be completed by 1990 as a salute to the fourth party congress.

Commander in Chief Fidel Castro also toured the Renato Guitar blood bank, which is the first one of its type to be inaugurated in Cuba and which will produce 21 blood derivatives and raw material for interferon and vaccines.

Inaugurates Oil Refinery

FL2507193288 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1153 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Yesterday our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro inaugurated the first oil refinery built by the revolution in our country.

Prior to the inauguration ceremony, Guillermo Perez, director of the refinery, showed Fidel and his entourage the main installations recently completed in the current oil by-products enterprise. The vast investment program which culminates on this 26 July cost 260 million pesos. Its equipment, assembling, and putting into operation are fruits of the generous contribution of the Soviet Union. It includes a lubricants unit which is already in operation and produces 60,000 tons per year of synthetic oils [grasas plasticas] and other oils for multiple industrial uses.

[Castro] "He [Perez] was saying that there is a lubricants unit which has a capacity of approximately 50,000 or 54,000 tons. It is very important because the production of those quality lubricants is a decisive factor for the functioning of our industry, transportation, and all our equipment. It is something of great importance. During the time of capitalism, that plant and its production did not exist.

"A synthetic wax plant, as it is called, which produces 5,000 tons is also something extremely important for the country's economy. And one of the plants which is very exciting is the (?recycling) of used lubricants. The report I read I think said that it had a capacity of 38,000 tons. I think Guillermo [Perez] said it was 50,000—I don't know which of the two data is... [someone in audience interrupts] Ah, it's clear now. It processes 50,000 tons of

used oil and it (?recycles) 38,000 tons. That is the capacity. So, note how important it is to use used oil, used lubricants. That is why it is so important, that is why we cannot on a daily basis do without (?recycling) that used oil. The oil we used, which at one time we used to waste, throw away, and possibly contaminate the environment and cause all kinds of problems, today we once again use as a lubricant."

The leader of the revolution also found out that the asphalt plant and complex 2, or new refinery, function very efficiently. It will be able to produce 1.5 million tons of fuel to increase by 50 percent the capacity installed here at the triumph of the revolution.

[Castro] "Suffice it to say the following: The capacity this industry has for refining is equal to the entire capacity which existed in the country at the time of the triumph of the revolution. We can say that today Santiago de Cuba, by itself, can refine as much petroleum as was refined in Cuba at the time of the triumph of the revolution."

The first secretary of the PCC Central Committee was also informed that the recent completion of the modern pier and the hydrogen and sulphur plants constitutes the end of the fundamental and principal investment process of the past few years in Santiago de Cuba Province.

[Castro] "We also talked here about the new pier. It is a very important project because now we have to supply millions of tons of petroleum every year. Finally, there are 10 new installations, in addition to tanks of all sorts for lubricants, asphalt, and crude oil, which in their entirety really make up a great industry.

"There are other installations. The sulphur plant was mentioned which can produce over 8,000 tons of sulphur. It doesn't only produce an important raw material but it improves the whole refining process in the refinery. He spoke about the nitrogen plant which also produces 200,000 cubic meters of oxygen. I asked what they did with that oxygen, and they said they send it to other centers for industrial use. He spoke about the hydrogen plant which is necessary for the process. Each one of those things perfects the work of the refinery."

The commander in chief spoke about the variety and quality of the fuel to be produced by the new units of the Santiago de Cuba refinery; he also referred to the savings in currency this means to the national economy.

[Castro] "But now it will produce liquefied petroleum gas. How many tons of liquefied gas? If I am wrong, please correct me. According to what I read, 12,000 tons of liquefied gas will be produced. It will supply fuel to 60,000 family units. This could be approximately 250,000 or 300,000 people. This is very important. Keep in mind that at the triumph of the revolution, the majority of the population cooked with wood and (?coal)—that is, if they had anything to cook. [laughter] It will produce 226,000 tons of kerosene. According to the data I read, it will provide domestic fuel to 565,000 family units. Is that right? That's right, family units. This means that the products of this refinery will help resolve the problem of fuel which often needs to be imported for millions of people."

The president of the Councils of State and Ministers announced the initiation of a very important project for the future in the province.

[Castro] "After analyzing the problem with Comrade [Esteban] Lazo, Comrade Eddie [not further identified], the minister, and the construction workers, we arrived at the conclusion to begin building the railroad right away. In other words, in the month of August. [applause] I have also also been thinking about accelerating the projects of the railroad station, and, if it is possible, and under a small condition, to also have it finished before the celebration of the party congress [applause] and to link the refinery with the railroad.

"Presently, each time we need to take fuel to any part of this province, (?or) to the eastern provinces, we do it with pipes. Just calculate how much it costs to transport millions of tons of fuel in trucks. That is why it will be a significant savings. With the use of the railroad, we will be able to guarantee this province's supply of petroleum, which has to reach at least Camaguey. It has to reach especially the eastern provinces where at least 40 percent of the country's population lives. Therefore, we (?and) the railroad construction workers, as a contribution to the functioning and to the integration of this refinery to the rest of the country, will make a special effort so that in the shortest possible time we are linked with a railroad. That is what we are lacking."

He also emphasized the Soviet cooperation in other economic areas.

[Castro] "It is not enough to analyze the significance of only this project but also to analyze the significance of all those projects, similar to this one, which are being built with Soviet cooperation. Not far from here is that industry which also has Soviet equipment. There is a capacity of ½ million kilowatts where once there wasn't anything. We used to refine some oil here. However, not a single kilowatt of oil was produced. [sentence as heard]

"I remember those areas very well in old Rente. I remember this, when I was still a student at the Lasalle Brothers School. They used to have a little recreational area here, they used to bring the students. That was one of the good things I was able to learn about. I had the opportunity to come here. They would bring their few students here a couple of times per week—I think there were about 30 students. They would take us here to Rente. There were some soccer fields. We would come here on a little boat just like you do, just like many of the workers of this refinery do. There wasn't anything there.

"With Soviet cooperation and machinery, we have created there a great power industry thanks to which we now have those electrification programs. Now we could talk about electricity programs. How many tens of thousands of houses would receive electricity yearly without that power industry built in these years?"

The supreme leader of the revolution exhorted the construction workers to continue working with the dynamism showed here in these last projects. He called on the refinery workers to produce with maximum efficiency.

[Castro] "We liked very much the fact that a special effort was being made in the economic aspect, accounting, costs, savings, how much was spent in each workshop, and how much each product costs. That is important and essential. That is why we expressed our satisfaction, pride, and happiness when we saw this project. We also express desire and at the same time our faith that this enterprise will be a socialist enterprise model. [applause] Fatherland or death, we will win.

Tours Other Areas

FL2607150788 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has toured other areas of the heroic city of Santiago de Cuba. He announced that by 1990 he foresees the completion of the Grand Theatre, the Santiago Hotel, and the Antonio Maceo Square. He referred to the need for the Paco Cabrera factory to guarantee the production of the metal structures required to complete those projects.

Raul Castro Decorates Retired Workers

FL2307155588 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Text] At the Basic Industry Ministry offices, Army General Raul Castro, second secretary of the PCC Central Committee and minister of the FAR, has decorated 21 retired people who are working on the electrification of the eastern provinces. Raul praised the efforts of these retirees who, with their work, are helping to improve the living conditions of residents of isolated areas in the country.

He recalled that on 22 July, 3 decades ago, the Jigue battle took place. At this time, the rebel army, led by our commander in chief, defeated the enemy. Raul ended by saying that in those same mountains the group of electric power workers has also waged a war against shadows and brought light. Jose Pio Rodriguez expressed his gratitude for the decorations received on behalf of the retirees.

Foreign Officials Arrive for Moncada Ceremony

FL2507210588 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Text] Various political leaders of liberation movements and high-ranking officials from [words indistinct] have already arrived in our country. They were invited to the main ceremony marking the 35th anniversary of the Moncada Barracks Assault.

Among the people who have arrived within the last few hours are Commander of the Revolution Tomas Borge, minister of the interior and member of the National Directorate of the Sandinist National Liberation Front; Nikolay Vasilyevich Lemayev, member of the CPSU Central Committee and minister of the Soviet Government; (Helob Melaika), vice president of the National People's Assembly of Algeria; Hoang Truong Minh, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee; Jozeph Baryla, member of the Polish United Workers Party Politburo; and (Francis Malini), national executive of African National Congress, among others.

ANPP Session Discusses Research Work, Crime

FL2307113088 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1728 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Proceedings "highlights" from the 2d day of the National Assembly of the People's Government (ANPP) third session held at the Palace of Conventions in Havana on 19 July—recorded]

[Text] [Unidentified delegate] First of all, I would like to acknowledge that the academy [Cuban Academy of Sciences; ACC] report is very good. I have an idea which might be helpful. I work in a research establishment, the national fruit station. A movement was underway some time ago in which comrades called the movement meetings a dedication to work. They took place mainly in health centers. I was somewhat disappointed because I thought they were going to be held in every center. This would help us to examine a lot of things. There are some centers in which not all of the researchers are fully dedicated to their work. It is true that the country invests a considerable amount of resources to research and the only way the country has of getting the results it expects and needs from work centers is by getting the full dedication of researchers to their work. I want to present the idea—perhaps to help convey this first recommendation to the academy and other organizations which have research units—of implementing these dedication meetings in all science and technology units. I have talked to some comrades who have participated in such meetings and they have told me that some very good commitments come out of them and that research workers contribute ideas. This is something that can be measured and verified. Those researchers not producing in their work can be identified. I believe that a researcher who is not going to be fully committed to research should simply not be at a research center. There is another aspect which is included in the recommendation regarding the good use of human resources in the labor force. If researchers were more dedicated to research, without a doubt fewer of them would be needed. Maybe this plan could work in several areas of research. This is the idea I had.

[Aguirre, acting president of the ANPP] I believe the commission can begin considering these things and if it later thinks it can clarify or explain something, it can do so. Let's continue so that we do not stop at every little important point.

[Castro] The comrade has a point. There was a time when there was much carelessness regarding personnel who joined research centers. Many times—not always, I don't want to generalize—comrades who were not qualified for production went to work at research centers. Decree laws need to be approved to start establishing stricter requirements in research centers so that only the best qualified comrades will work in them. In addition, they will have to be evaluated and reevaluated. We have been talking about the beautiful achievements of science and things that went well. But there were periods of time in which they went bad. This is the truth.

Some things are still left. Rosa Elena [Simeon, president of the ACC] mentioned the payroll situation. For every one researcher, there were 4, 5, 6, or 8 who had nothing to do with research. People piled up. There were poor quality people with poor qualifications. All of this required a process which took place several years ago. It started to be implemented by assessing, reassessing, making demands, and asking for special qualifications in order to work at research centers. I don't know up to what point this has been implemented. I understand that this strict policy and other demands are being implemented more and more. I believe this is what he was referring to somewhat when he said there are people who are not qualified to work at research centers. It is true that this is controversial. I believe Rosa Elena did not want to be too controversial on these matters but we have had weak, weak [repeats himself] periods in this Science Academy which is starting to create more and more serious institutions. Still the academy needed rectification very badly. This has been taking place for some time now. I believe there have been changes. I don't know if it is appropriate to talk about it.

[Aguirre] Rosa Elena wants to talk.

[Castro] There are yet more advanced things. It is the matter of establishing the principle of dedication to research. There are some centers already in which people are truly dedicated. One example is the CENIC [National Scientific Research Center], which had a payroll of 1,400, a payroll of 1,200 [corrects himself] and I believe it now has less than 600 and is making a much improved effort in the field of research. Even though it is a center with achievements, with successes, it is making big efforts. I don't know if Rosa Elena wants to say something about it.

[Simeon] I was going to refer precisely to this. The process the comrade was referring to on the meetings which were held did not only take place in health centers. It is a work we did in coordination with the PCC in Havana and after your speech at the inauguration of the genetic engineering center. Meetings were held with each research team; this ended with a general meeting and a discussion at the nucleus of the party. They discussed the dedication to (?research) work. I believe the best example of all this political ideological work is the CENIC. As you said, from the nearly 1,200 workers it had in the past, it now has some 600 workers. It doesn't have 700 workers. They aspire to have a payroll of 635 workers.

In reality, in order to develop scientific work, the true scientist in a society such as ours, which is supposed to solve the urgent problems of production and services, must have an unquestionable dedication, commitment, and an attitude toward scientific work that makes him different from the rest. What has been made evident in these discussions? Well, what he pointed out. It has been openly said, names have been named. Aside from the legal steps we have taken.... [changes thought] The new law on classifications has already come out. This is the resolution which evaluates researchers by their results and not by the formal requirements—as I said in my remarks—formal requirements had been prioritized. We used to evaluate a reseacher by the courses he taught, the work he published, the events he attended, and not by his concrete contribution to society. In the new evaluation system implemented in 1986, the researcher is evaluated by the results of his work. We still cannot say that it is done 100 percent of the time at the required levels with proper requirements, but progress has been made in creating the awareness that this is the way it has to be.

So, in these meetings which were held in Havana and in some other provinces in the country, research problems were discussed. We have been cleaning—to call it something—research centers in a gradual way. We can't say the problem has been solved. We have to continue working. Above all, we have to prohibit comrades who do not meet all of the requirements from entering the centers. A selection committee has been created for research centers with very strict requirements. The researcher will be evaluated in 2 years. If he has not shown results in his work, he will leave the research system. So, legal steps have been taken to establish all the necessary regulations. I believe the most important thing and the area where we have made the most progress is in the field of political discussions with researchers regarding their responsibilities and the work they are supposed to perform. I don't know if what I have said satisfies the comrade. We agree with him and we have proposed along with the comrades of the PCC Central Committee to have this process in place at all centers by the second half of the year.

[Aguirre] Deputy Dolores Castro has the floor.

[Dolores Castro] Dolores Castro from Centro Habana. When I was reading the report, it caught my attention that for the 1986-90 5-year period research plan, which appears on page 48, as well as for the 22 approved scientific-technical programs, as is pointed out in page 49, most of them have had concrete effects on the economy. An economic assessment regarding this is lacking. The report does not reflect the economic benefits those research works yield. For example, on the same page 48, when it refers to spending in 1987—that is, how much research costs—no reference is made to the economic and social effect research projects have.

I brought this up because on repeated occasions our commander has called on us to think and reflect with an economic mentality. Therefore, I believe it is important to learn how much a research project costs and it is also important to know the benefits of this research, that is, what social benefits will this have. This is why I believe we should adequately assess not only what we spend but also what we are going to contribute and what we actually contribute. So, since the report does not refer to the economic benefits and the results of the main projects, I wanted to know what steps are being taken at the Academy of Sciences to have an economic assessment done.

[Aguirre] Rosa Elena.

[Simeon] Unquestionably, the comrade's question is a very interesting one. We have been trying to determine how much we spend, to truly know the cost of a research project and the cost of the results. The second part of the problem is a little bit more difficult. The economic benefits of research are difficult to measure. We could say that with the AIDS kit we saved a certain amount of money in imports.

This could represent $1.5 million for the country. But what is the economic significance of the peace of mind of our people? Each blood transfusion means a blood transfusion which does not spread AIDS. Who puts a price tag on this? Let's consider studies in other areas, (?Mig) to prevent meningitis. Recently—a few minutes ago—we talked about it. This was done to compensate for children who fell behind in school, so that they did not end up having psychiatric ailments, so we are able to adequately help them when they fall behind in school, so that we can detect deafness as early as the newborn stage and are still able to incorporate them into society. There is a group of investigations to which it is a little difficult to assign a monetary figure.

We purposely did not put it in the report in that way. We attempted to present to the deputies the most significant results. This does not mean that we are not working on this but we have tried to be cautious. First, we do not want to put on a figure which would be considered a balloon, as we say in the streets, or a figure which may not adequately reflect a result because we cannot put a price on it.

We have worked very hard in figuring out costs. We want to know exactly how much a project costs. How much did the AIDS antigen cost us? How much does each one of the 818 projects cost us? This is what I can tell the comrade. In my remarks, I said we are working to find a coherent system. When I speak of a system, it is because we can't only consider the purely economic factor but also the social factor of the project. I don't know if this answers the comrade's question.

[Aguirre] Dolores.

[Dolores Castro] I totally agree with the president of the Academy of Sciences. I believe this is one of the things which concerns all researchers, not only in the economic area. I agree with her that.... [changes thought] I believe it has two stages. It is easy to figure out costs through accounting, adding expenses, etc. This problem is not exclusively Cuban. It is a problem of all socialist economies. I understand there is no uniform methodology for this. I believe we need to pay attention to this because of its importance, not only for science but also for socialism which go hand in hand in the construction of socialism. Also because of the needs we have. In order for us to conduct research it is important to have the economic foundation before beginning the research. It is not only important to know how much the research is going to cost but also to see if it is worth conducting it at the time in order to have a complete economic assessment. Anyway, I fully agree.

[Castro] Severo, I believe it is a good thing every time an assessment of costs can be made. But this cannot be done all the time. I believe some of the examples.... [changes thought] She expressed herself well when she mentioned economic or social assessment. There are times in which the assessment cannot be economic. It is social. For example, Rosa Elena explained the case. Everything that is done to prevent the spread of AIDS cannot be measured in money. It is absolutely impossible to measure it in money. The country is spared from AIDS. Nobody knows how to measure this. Attempts can be made to estimate it. The United States estimates how many millions of contaminated people and dead they have and how much they are going to cost They make economic estimates. I said we cannot make economic estimates in some things. Recently at the enterprises meeting I said sometimes we have to make economic estimates of how many accidents save [as heard]. Sometimes this may shock us. They should make these estimates through statistics. But to think about protection and health measures could save 100, 200, 1,000 lives. An economic estimate can also be made on how much they save in hospital expenses, hours of work which have not been loss. The essential basis for this is not economic; it is human.

In the struggle against illnesses such as AIDS, it is not economic, it is human. In the struggle against meningococci, it is the peace of mind which helps people and the number of people it saves. Economic estimates can also be made in others. "Sacharina" resulted from research. We still have to see what this yields. This can yield billions of pesos in a year. This can be translated in hundreds of thousands of [words indistinct] milk. There is tremendous value in all that. Many research projects do not yield anything. Some research projects are fundamental. They bring practical results which are used to base other research projects.

I believe economic assessments should be made as much as possible, especially the ones related to production. The ones related to production can somehow be measured. Especially, [words indistinct] costs. At least to keep track of the costs of research.

I think that if we find an illness.... [changes thought] if we have to fight against cancer and conduct cancer research, it does not mean that these research projects can be estimated economically. Cancer research is conducted everywhere in the world. It is a plague, a threat against life. People complain that so much research is conducted for the arms race, the development of weapons, and not enough research projects are conducted to fight cancer. It would be very difficult to make an economic assessment to decide to conduct a cancer research project. I imagine cancer research is being conducted all over the world using many resources, through many different ways, thousands of different ways. It would be very difficult to make an economic assessment in this kind of research. I don't know how you comrade see the case in which cancer research is conducted or to fight any of those types of illnesses. What do you think about those cases? Your concern over the economic stand point is correct. But how could it be conciliate it with some of these kinds of research projects which the results are so difficult to measure economically?

[Dolores Castro] Commander, I believe there are some types of research projects which.... [changes thought] This is why I spoke of not only an economic impact but also a social one. The comrade president of the Academy of Sciences, when she was making her introduction to the discussion, said science is at the service of society, to benefit society. There is a group of research projects which is necessary for society and can have considerable costs and expenses. However, they need to be conducted because of the social benefits. The benefits they can bring cannot be measured from the standpoint of welfare and health of people. A group of factors cannot be measured.

But I do believe that the benefit.... [changes thought] For example, the scientific-technical program has nine projects which are related to the increase of exportable funds. How much are these nine research projects going to bring the country in exportable funds? Later it is noted that seven are aimed fundamentally at substitution of imports and savings. Well, how much do they save the country? I believe there are things we can do. That it is difficult? Yes. I believe it is very difficult. It is so difficult that we have not been able to do it. This does not mean that we should not start to think.... [changes thought] that we should not keep track of research costs. I have talked to the comrades from the academy and they have this concern. The comrade president noted this in her introduction. I know they are working on this. There are comrades who are thinking about how to figure out the economic impact. They are even trying to use investment methods, working on a formula to see how we are going to determine this. I understand that by using computers they have figured out the economic impact at the ministry level. I ask myself: If we do it at the ministry level, it is important to know about it at the level of research problems. The 201 research problems which refers to theoretical and methodological problems of these things related to [words indistinct] I believe we have approximately 178 comrades involved in this research. However, up to now we have 13 results.

[Castro] Which research projects?

[Dolores Castro] There are four or five fundamental lines in social sciences research projects. In one of the fundamental lines, which I believe is line five, I understand there is one of these problems—201—which refers to theoretical-methodological problems related to all economic laws of socialism. I believe we should see how much each one of the problems is going to cost us.

[Interior Minister Jose Abrantes] I have asked for the floor to clarify some basic matters related to crime. To clarify some things which have been discussed on the depenalization process and attempt to get as much objectivity as possible in the way these problems are seen and assessed. We followed closely, not only the criminal activity, the way it is handled, and the development of the depenalization process after modifications were made to the Penal Code—which were approved at the ANPP's previous session—but also to the impact they have had in the population and the way they are viewed now, especially in the capital. As Comrade Fidel pointed out, we have been touring the provinces in the last few weeks.

The views, concerns, uneasiness do not exist in the provinces—at least not as strongly. I think this is natural because the largest number of criminals in the country are concentrated in Havana. Also [words indistinct], antisocial people, and other kind of elements who live on the margin of the law are concentrated here. We know that many people think the new Penal Code is too benevolent, others are concerned over depenalization and assume that this will increase crime. There are those who are unsure about the behavior of those who commit crimes knowing that from now on in many cases they will only be fined and not sanctioned with loss of freedom. Many say this flexibility weakens us. Some erroneously believe this policy is carried out to give a different image because of the enemy's campaigns on alleged human rights violations in our country.

It is precisely on these matters that I would like to make some remarks. First, we could briefly explain the development of the release program since it began more than 2 years ago and the assessment of some of the main crime indexes we have now. Amaro [Jose Raul; president of the Supreme People's Tribunal Governing Council] mainly referred to the ones in the capital. I am going to refer to national figures. For this, we are going to use some data which show our situation and can help us have a more objective view of these things.

From the beginning of 1986 until 30 June 1988, 28,864 inmates have been released—15,638 of them on parole, 5,077 on furlough, and 8,149 because of the application of the retroactivity provision of the new Penal Code. Only 833 of these have returned to prison. This represents 2.9 percent. Out of these 833 cases, 175—just to give you an example—have gone back, not for committing new crimes but because they violated parole terms. For example, individuals who have been offered a number of job

opportunities and have not accepted any of them, individuals who after being placed in a job stopped working without a justified reason, individuals who without committing criminal acts disturb public order, and elements who sometimes visit with these groups, that is, criminal elements sometimes meet with antisocials. Parole conditions specify they cannot carry out these kinds of activities or meet with these types of elements.

Out of the 658 who did commit new crimes, 37 are classified under crimes against life and physical integrity, 412 against state property [derechos patrimoniales], 29 against the economy, and 180 in other crime categories. We are trying to analyze these things in a more qualitative manner so that you can have a better understanding in the analysis of these situations and each one of these individuals [words indistinct], and certain criminal acts. We intend to do this in a more comprehensive manner within the next few months and perhaps the next time we have to come here we will be able to report to you in a truly objective way the status of crime in our country.

The principle this policy was based on has been applied to all of these people. They have to serve the remaining time for the previous case, what they are supposed to serve for the new crime committed, and are not considered in any program for a future early release.

A total of 8,149 inmates have been released because of crimes which were depenalized since the new Penal Code was implemented. Only 56 of them have returned to prison. This represents 0.7 percent. During this period, thousands of other inmates were released because they served their respective sentences in their entirety. This did not result in any sustained crime increase, increase of criminality, or a significant worsening of the operational situation. This confirms that despite the natural problems faced in the immediate job placement of those released from jail and the social rejection tendencies which prevail in our population toward some people to which we refer later, objectively, the figures show that their participation in new crimes is not significant or of concern and that the program we have developed in this matter has been successful, correct, revolutionary, and just.

The release and depenalization process we have been developing has allowed us to achieve more rational indexes in the penal population based on a more selective and just criteria that only those who deserve it should remain in jail because of the severity of the crime committed and because of the dangerousness of their behavior and actions.

We cannot ignore that, as a result of our mistakes in penal and penitentiary policy, we are now rectifying. A disproportionate growth of the penitentiary population took place. At one point, it reached an annual growth rate of up to 19 percent. This led to plans for a disproportionate increase of prison space for the end of the last 5-year period. This would have meant that the penal population would have had an excessive percentage increase.

If we take into account the number of people under the age of 16, the elderly, and others who are unjustly accused, as well as the female prison population—which, in general, is small—the percent of young male and adult citizens in prison, the penal population size would be inconceivable.

The process we have carried out in the last 2 and ½ years has allowed the current penal population figure to represent 37 percent of the total prison population in 1983, when it was the highest of all times. We reduced this population by releasing from prison those who received excessive sentences under the previous penal policy. The population now is the lowest in the almost 30-year history of the revolution in accordance with our current political and socioeconomic reality.

We are conducting a study on prisons and the system for minors, since Comrade Fidel and other comrades were concerned and asking about this situation. In order to evaluate in detail the situation of the system of attention to youths who have conduct problems and the penitentiary system, we began in March the first stage of an extensive study on the organization, functioning, and results of prisons and minors. This was obtained by our ministry. This allowed us to determine the positive aspects of this system and, above all, evaluate the areas of insufficiency and deficiency we still have, their causes, and the possible measures that may eliminate them.

In this study we compared the norms and regulations of each of the specialties that comprise those systems with those the United Nations has established as indispensable basic requirements in this area. We chose the United Nations as a point of reference because it is the organization that studies this matter on a world-wide basis.

In addition, the study has allowed us to more precisely define the expansion of work relations with other organizations and institutions which should assume functions that are currently performed by our ministry or because we should be more efficient in some common tasks we carry out.

A calendar of activities was put into practice with details of the tasks we should perform to help us complement the decisions we adopted based on the conclusions reached from the study. Among these, we can cite coordination among and meetings with other organizations and institutions, with which we share the work of these important systems, for the purpose of studying the possible transfer of tasks that currently are unduly being performed by our organization and for the purpose of achieving greater efficiency in our work. This becomes particularly important in the case of the Education Ministry, where conduct problems should be handled by each organization, and in the case of the Attorney General's Office and the tribunals, in regard to those who have received sentences of provisional imprisonment.

We can also cite the priority we have given to early detection of deviant conduct among minors which will help contribute to the eradication of this problem before the degree of deterioration is high and irreversible. We have emphasized the educational purpose of the tasks related to attention to youths, each time minimizing police control or formal legal proceedings or nuances [matices] that can associate this type of treatment with a type of penal and penitentiary system.

We have also placed priority on living conditions and treatment. Professional assistance has been rendered by university graduates. We have this in our centers. Educational activities and organizational mechanisms have been carried out and initiated in reference to minors who, because of their condition, should be the object of measures that should be applied by our ministry. Here we would have a group of comrades who are psychologists, teachers, psychiatrists, and other types of specialists. Our idea, the one we are currently studying, to later propose to our country's leaders, is that these problems should fundamentally be handled by education, by the schools that are being built, which, as everyone more or less knows, Fidel has spoken about at length.

Perhaps some of this should be handled by the Public Health Ministry; those children who have psychological problems, psychiatric illnesses, or other types of abnormalities. Together they can give them the appropriate care. We would handle those children with no other alternative or those who do not have these types of abnormalities.

To increase as much as possible the material, technical, and professional resources of penitentiary centers, to improve their regulations and other norms so that differentiated treatment can be given to each inmate or a group of them according to their characteristics. To continue studying in depth penal and penitentiary mechanisms based on the criminology characteristics of the penal population—we are also having comrade criminologists study this situation—so that we can achieve our goal of saving man as much as possible, of returning him to society and incorporating him into the revolution.

The scientific review of these matters, the extensive and comprehensive reflection we have been doing, and the results of the study we have explained, allow us to say that our objective is perfectly viable. To reach 1990 with qualitatively superior work in penitentiary treatment and attention to minors with behavior problems which will place us among the best in the world.

The deeply humane character of our revolution, the experience accumulated during all these years by the comrades from various institutions who have worked jointly with us in these systems such as the Social Prevention and Attention Commission, the Academy of Sciences, University of Havana, and especially the Ministry of Education, the preliminary results of the study we are conducting and our confidence in the comrades who are responsible for carrying out those tasks, assure us that we will have the expected success. These are the comments I wanted to make on the study-analysis we are conducting.

Regarding criminal activity, we can report that the first half of the year was characterized by a sustained drop in overall crime. Violent robberies and aggravated assault dropped compared to last year. During the first half of the year, 691 cases were registered. This represents 92 less cases than the previous period. In 80 percent of the cases, the value of stolen goods was less than 500 pesos and more than 50 percent did not reach 100 pesos. There was a slight increase of 4 percent in robberies involving violence; 6,121 cases. This figure represents 231 more cases than were reported a year ago. Only Santiago de Cuba, Pinar del Rio, Guantanamo, and Havana reported decreases.

In the capital, there was a 5 percent increase. Centro Habana had a large impact on this figure since it doubled the numbers reported in the previous period. In approximately half of the cases, the value of the stolen goods did not exceed 100 pesos. Two out of each five cases—49 percent—affected homes and commercial establishments, especially grocery stores. Theft in general and those technically called grand theft were also down despite the fact that it is difficult for police to deal with these cases because of the circumstances in which they generally occur. Criminal acts are greatly favored by the negligence in the protection of state and private properties.

During the period, 2,166 fewer thefts were registered than during the previous period. Only more than 4,000 cases which are technically considered grand thefts took place because the value of goods exceeded 500 pesos. Some 82 percent of the thefts committed were classified as petty thefts. This kind of crime continues to take place especially in the retail commercial network, in places that do not have the minimum security conditions. Added to this at times are negligence and lack of supervision and demands of some officials who do not implement measures which guarantee the protection and care of resources they are responsible for.

As we examine the problem of crime against state property, it is important to take into account their qualitative value and not only the number of cases which take place. Most cases we face could be called petty thefts, not only because of the small value of the goods stolen but also because in most cases, the perpetrators act taking advantage of the negligence and insufficient security measures in homes and establishments and it is not always a result of organized crime or elements with dangerous traits.

In crimes against state property, several factors, which we should not ignore, are present. Among them are the irregularities produced in the distribution of articles or goods to the population such as the case we are facing with liquid gas tanks and regulators. There is a large illegal demand for them because by having them fuel supply is assured. For example, the figure of illegal

consumers amounts to some 50,000, some 18,000 in the capital. During the first half of the year, more than 1,200 gas regulators and tanks were stolen in Havana. We should also keep in mind that in our society there are still segments of the population with tendencies to satisfy their needs through the acquisition of goods without considering its suspicious source. This encourages perpetrators of robberies and thefts since they find suitable conditions for the illegally trafficking of the product, of their criminal acts.

We know that there is shortage of some of these goods which motivates this behavior. But we should work to increase the demands and vigilance of revolutionaries, develop preventive and education work to prevent honest people—because of lack of precaution or naivete—from turning into recipients or playing the game of antisocial elements.

The crime of theft and killing of cattle—about which there has been plenty of talk—continues to show a growing trend. This half of the year, 2,073 cases were registered. This represents 831 more cases compared to the previous period. The main cause is deficiencies in control of cattle by some enterprises. Many private sector peasants allow their cattle to graze without enough security measures; there are also other factors that facilitate crime and make it more difficult to investigate. In order to deal more effectively with this kind of crime, a national study has begun by police specialists in coordination with the appropriate organizations which will allow us to take measures aimed at better work in this regard.

Crimes against foreigners, although they are given priority, also registered a slight increase. Nevertheless, the number of tourists affected only represented 0.2 percent—1 out of each 447—despite the fact tourists are the most affected foreigners.

Other crimes such as illegal gambling continue to drop. There was a 60 percent drop in cases reported compared to the previous year. I believe these figures, and some more we have, help to understand better our situation. I would also like to say that in addition to the problem with tourists, visitors, foreigners in general, we have special groups working throughout the entire country because we want to eradicate this kind of element since they create a very unfavorable and distorted image of our country. We have given instructions to eradicate this kind of element who lives from tourists, from foreigners, and goes to these places. We believe there is no doubt that we are going to wipe this out within the next few months. Of course, we cannot eliminate crime throughout the entire country. This is a social problem. It is a more complex matter. But we have given instructions and created the conditions to eliminate and eradicate this type of element which, as I explained before, give a very negative image of our country.

The potential we have to combat crime is enormous. We don't know of any other country with the force of the masses Cuba has. What is needed is to organize it adequately and harmonize and combine the action of all the factors at play. If we can create and achieve a rational and sensible action of directing the efforts of our organs—infantry, patrol, sector chiefs, brigades, and others—with auxiliary forces such as night watchmen, labor guards, CVP's [expansion unknown], CDR [Committees for the Defense of the Revolution] guards, and other possible resources, we are certain that revolutionary vigilance will be an insurmountable barrier. We will close in on them and make unbearable the lives of criminals and antisocial elements.

I want to stress that the goals we have set forth and the measures we have attempted to implement firmly in the last few years, in order to rectify mistakes and solve deficiencies, improve and make more rational and just the complex process of detention of people, booking, legal prosecution, and enforcement of sentences. They are all based on strategic and well thought out concepts, thorough definitions, and criteria based on the ways to advance this effort for the benefit of security; welfare; and the cultural, moral, and spiritual standard of living of our people.

There is no haste, improvisation, or inconsistency. These problems have been the object of serious and careful analyses by our party's leadership and have been extensively discussed in the institutions involved in this task. We are absolutely convinced that the rectification of the penal policy is proper, just, and revolutionary. The one implemented in the past was excessively repressive. It proved to us that it was unable to struggle against crime.The crime situation did not turn around by only applying prison sanctions and longer sentences. Life has shown us that harsh laws and repressive mechanisms alone do not solve problems. Of course, we have to apply stiff measures to elements who are a threat to society.

We have also been persuaded that to defend the revolution and fight crime does not necessarily mean [words indistinct] our strength isn't necessarily expressed this way but, to the contrary, this conviction with which I speak is not only a result of the experiences we have had and the reflections we have made on these matters but also of the specific knowledge resulting from the systematic control of the work of our organs, of the visits we have made to prisons, the contacts with inmates and their relatives, and the assessment of the reasons why many of them were sent to jail. For me, it is not the same thing to reflect about these problems here than to perceive them in the concrete prison situation. At times we speak of inmates and we do not realize that many of them are youths, sometimes adolescents. They are not always criminals. We have put them in jail for crimes that do not pose a threat. Later, it is difficult to rescue them from there.

It is well known that our prisons are not dens of vice. Reeducation is done through work. But jail is jail. It is always better to reeducate and rehabilitate outside of it.

I believe we have to make our people think about all these things, persuade and convince our compatriots that this rectification implies a change of mentality, a subsequent and thorough political-ideological work, a change of the repression concept, and a reversal to the trend of finding the solution to all faults, mistakes, violations, and misdemeanors through the intervention of police and tribunals.

As we have repeated many times, we have to focus our efforts on the causes of violations, infractions, and crime by carrying out greater preventive work, healthy and timely vigilance, adequate and systematic individual and social demands, adequate administrative control, correct protection of society's property, citizens' education properly provided by all institutions at all levels and the combativeness against everything done wrong. This should always distinguish a revolutionary. This combativeness which Comrade Fidel is always calling for, in the sense that we have to take up a struggle, sometimes there are revolutionary compatriots who show a certain attitude of not wanting to get involved in problems. We have even noticed this at times when combatants of our police have had to deal with social indiscipline acts and breach of peace. And at times, there has been a lack of solidarity and militant and combative support by revolutionary comrades who have been present.

Life has shown that police and judicial organs cannot and should never aspire to try to replace the irreplaceable role of family, school, political and mass organizations, and state institutions. It should be worth asking, as we have done before, isn't it an obvious contradiction that we have a high penal population figure despite the fact that Cuba is a calm country, where one can live safely, where there is no violent atmosphere, or organized crime, bank robbers, drug addicts, or a high crime rate? What kind of information, assessments and thorough studies do we have regarding who are and aren't criminals, and on the youths we are sending to prison? Weren't most of those young people born after the triumph of the revolution? Aren't most of them children of families of workers? For a mistake, many times the result of natural mischief thatm any of us did when we were young, we send them to jail with irreparable consequences.

Doesn't this process, now being truly developed, tell us that these problems, because of their complexity, political, and social repercussions cannot be limited within the framework of a single institution and be identified by only one sector of our socialist state? Let's not lose site for even a moment that this effort has to be more and more a task of the entire society and cannot rest only on the shoulders of police, prosecutors, and tribunals.

Moreover, it is something that is inseparably linked to our economic and social development, the solution to many material problems we still have and for which gigantic transformation work is being carried out, our own capability to foresee and struggle with energy against the deficiencies we still have.

However, there is an essential aspect we want to clarify so there is no confusion. The individualized treatment we talk about does not imply only flexibility in the implementation of other kinds of measures for he who does not deserve to go to prison but also includes the concept of being more severe and intolerant with antisocial and criminal elements. We do not favor any kid glove treatment. There has not been, is not, and will not be impunity with regard to crime, infractions, misdemeanors, and violations, no matter what they are. What we propose is that the measures imposed on each one should be in line with his misdeed. Only the one who should go to jail will go. We will not tolerate challenges to authority. We are not going to loosen or weaken social order—just the opposite. We have given specific instructions to our police that authority has to prevail, that they have to be forceful and intolerant with antisocial elements, with boasters, bullies, with those who want to benefit from the work of someone else, and against all those who intend to live outside the norms of coexistence which regulate our society of workers.

We have given instructions to implement—taking the opportunity given by the new code—measures that prohibit lack of social discipline, which, although the activities and behavior involved are not classified as crimes, nevertheless bothers and annoys our citizens. Under no circumstances should such activities and behavior go unpunished. The new law includes various resources and rules to sanction adequately infractions and misdemeanors. We are not ignorant of the fact that depenalization could have caused expectations in elements with criminal tendencies who, not being well informed—as our commander in chief was saying—could think that they are not going to be the object of stiff sanctions if they commit these kinds of acts. I believe that those who have been guilty of this mistake should know that police work will be increasingly forceful and strict. There will be no respite for criminals. For them differentiation will mean that we will be stricter, that there will be no indulgence, that prison will be harsher, without having excesses and without contradicting the unvariable policy of respect for the integrity and rights of citizens.

Our people can be sure that we have not lowered our guard and have not weakened. The weight of the law will fall with all its force on those who attempt to disturb peace. Thank you very much. [applause]

Haiti

Students on Refusal To Take Exam in September

FL2007215888 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] The national coordinating body of the movement of the 16,000 students who did not take the 1987 baccalaureat exams reiterates that they refuse to participate in the exams scheduled for them for next September. They give several reasons for this.

They say: Considering all the awful consequences for Haiti of the ministry's decision; considering that we cannot, in 1 and ½ months, review subjects we left 2 years ago; considering that the ministry wants the 16,000 students to register in 5 days [words indistinct]; considering all the money our parents have already spent to put us into Philo class, without any (?help) from the ministry; considering that the resumption of the courses that the ministry is talking about is not really a help but rather a tool with which to demobilize students and their parents; and considering that the ministry's anti-pedagogical decision is a trap to shunt the students aside from society, its real objective is to eliminate the children of the masses from the educational system. They want to prevent the students from entering the university, which has no room for the children of the poor.

We representatives of the students from the north, Gonaives, Jacmel, Leogane, Jeremie, and Port-au-Prince, ZEL [Students Affairs], IEP [not further identified], Petit-Goave, Hinche, Petion-Ville, Mirebalais, and Les Cayes declare the following:

We declare that we will not betray the struggle the people are waging to participate in the decisions being made regarding their country. We will not betray the path Dessalines and Charlemagne Peralte paved to free the students and the people from the imperialists. We reiterate our position: We will not participate in the exams the ministry is organizing to punish 16,000 students who opposed the massacre of the people.

Ministry Asks Judges To Clear Caseloads

FL2207162788 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 22 Jul 88

[Text] The Ministry of Justice greets all judges and magistrates in their courts and civil tribunals and takes this opportunity to remind them of the dispositions of Article 28 of the law of 17 January 1964 regarding the organization of the judicial year.

Article 28 says that the judicial year begins on the first Monday in October and ends on the second Friday in August. No judge will be allowed to take his vacation at the end of the year unless he is up to date regarding all rulings on all the cases he has already heard. Failure to comply will lead to his being considered to have resigned.

During the last 2 weeks of the judicial year, the judges of the Court of Cassation, the Court of Appeals, and all the other judges in all other courts may be excused from hearing cases. Consequently, they are asked to clear their caseload, to do everything they are supposed to do within the time period they are given by law to do it, not only so that they can in this way do what the Justice Department and (?their leaders) expect of them, but also so that they can conform to the political philosophy of the government of the Republic, which intends to establish a true court system here in Haiti.

The Justice Ministry counts on the understanding of the magistrates and reiterates to them its greetings.

That was a press release from the Ministry of Justice.

Justice Ministry Warns No-Show Jurors

FL2207161188 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 22 Jul 88

[Text] The Justice Ministry has expressed support for the decision of the criminal court to penalize all jurors who fail to appear at court sessions. The Justice Ministry announces to the general public and to jurors in particular the dispositions of Articles 226 and 231, which were amended by the law of 14 September 1953 in the code of criminal procedure.

Article 226 (?says that) aside from the penalties provided for in Article 231, no one can hold any position or be employed in the administration or the judiciary or remain in such a job if he refuses to serve as a juror.

Article 231, amended by the law of 14 September 1953, says that all jurors who do not answer a summons received will be sentenced by a criminal court to pay a fine of 25 gourdes for the first unjustified absence. The fine will be doubled for a second offense. Furthermore, the person will be sentenced to serve a jail term of not less than 5 and not more than 15 days. Also, the person may lose all his political rights for a period from 6 months to up to a maximum of 2 years, without prejudice (?to the) dispositions of Article 226 of this code.

Should the person fail to pay the fines we just told you about, he can be jailed for 30 days.

The court will also, at the request of the Department of the Public Prosecutor, sentence any doctor to a fine of 100 gourdes who gives a citizen called to jury duty a false medical certificate allowing the citizen to not comply with his civic duty. Should he fail to pay this fine, the person so sentenced will be jailed for 10 days.

These sentences will be carried out at the order of the representative of the Department of the Public Prosecutor under penalty of suspension.

Repeated absences by a majority of the designated jurors can prevent the normal unfolding of the criminal trials going on at present at the civil court in Port-au-Prince. Consequently, the Justice Ministry advises everyone concerned that as of the publication of this notice, all the penalties provided for in the abovementioned articles will be applied to everyone who does not comply.

That was a press release from the Ministry of Justice.

Jamaica

PNP, JLP Disagree on Signing Peace Accord

FL2107010588 Bridgetown CANA in English 2334 GMT 20 Jul 88

[By Paget de Freitas)

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, July 20, CANA—Opposition People's National Party (PNP) leader, Michael Manley, declared Wednesday that he was ready for an immediate signing of the so-called peace agreement aimed at preventing election campaign violence in Jamaica. But Prime Minister Edward Seaga's ruling Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) said that more talks were required between the two leaders to ensure the existence of the political will so that the agreement did not become merely "cosmetic and therapeutic".

Meantime, a meeting is planned between Seaga and Manley to get the initiative back firmly on track following its slippage since Sunday in the wake of a rash of political skirmishes that followed the JLP's annual conference. Claiming that the PNP was provoking violence, the JLP Tuesday broke off a session that was to put final touches to the peace document and possibly decide issues on how and when it should be signed.

Manley aides had said early Wednesday that he had accepted an invitation from Seaga for a meeting Wednesday night, but at a later news conference it was clarified that he was contacted about the possibility of a meeting and that the get-to-gether was not confirmed. At a separate news conference JLP chairman Bruce Golding could only confirm that the leaders would meet "very soon".

Manley had told reporters that he regarded the JLP's action of suspending the talks as "playing games with Jamaica's future".

"We have the agreement here," Manley said. "I am hereby announcing that we will sign it now, exactly as it is, today or at any time convenient to them (the JLP) in the near future and in any place that they think is appropriate," he added.

However, JLP chairman, Bruce Golding, said that signing an agreement was not sufficient unless it was "backed up forcefully by an assertion of political will". "If that political will is not there, then frankly there will be no peace," Golding told journalists. "If that will is not asserted the mechanisms will be overworked to frustration." And the necessary political will would not be asserted only by nicely sounding statements of genuineness, added Golding, suggesting that the PNP had not done enough at the grassroots level so far to ensure a curb in violence.

The two parties have been discussing for several months the agreement to ensure that the campaign for the election Seaga must call by mid March does not break down into the violence that marked the 1980 poll when hundreds died.

Essentially the pact will cover a code of ethics for politicians and their conduct in the campaign as well as provide a mechanism to investigate breaches and publicly identify offenders. Part of the aim was to keep out of the charged atmosphere of the media charges and counter-charges which can inflame passions.

The understanding started to come under pressure with a series of incidents Sunday between PNP supporters and JLP backers returning from the JLP's annual conference. This was followed by an incident Tuesday in the south central constituency when gunshot were fired.

The JLP and the PNP accused each other of sparking the incident and the JLP withdrew from the inter-party meetings. "The JLP are behaving as if they are doing Jamaica a favour if they agree to peace," Manley said. "Let me advise them that they are not being asked to do anybody a favour." "It is Jamaica that is demanding that both political parties work together to bring the madness of political violence at end," he added.

Golding stressed that the JLP had not withdrew from the process. "Don't misunderstand our position," the JLP chairman said, adding that the JLP had not "walked away from the table and kicked it over." It was felt that in light of what had happended since Sunday that it was necessary to step back and assess the situation, according to Golding. We have to explore in greater depth the initiatives that have to be taken on both sides that can't be committeed to the document, he said. Golding dismissed any suggestion that the JLP, which trails in public opinion polls, was seeking excuses not to go through with or delay the signing of the agreement. We are not filibustering, he said.

Manley, however, apparently not convinced, charged that Tueday's incident in St Catherine was a deliberate attempt by the JLP candidate to create an excuse for confrontation. Manley said too that in the series of incidents Sunday supporters on both sides had been guilty of provocations and that the PNP had not gone public with these and others in which party supporters were hurt. The peace process begins with the knowledge that there are problems between members of the parties which we have to work together to solve, he said.

Private Sector Reacts

FL2207185188 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 22 Jul 88

[Text] Eighteen private-sector organizations signed a statement this morning saying that the JLP has made an error of judgement in delaying the signing of the peace agreement.

[Begin (Peter Trow) recording] The signing of a joint declaration by the leaders and the public commitment of their parties to law and order can no longer be delayed for whatever reason.

The JLP, in our opinion, has made an error of judgement in delaying the signing as surely the treaty that was negotiated was designed to solve problems such as have occurred in the last week.

The great majority of Jamaicans only want peace. None of us can see the truth clearly in the welter of accusations and counter-accusations now going on, which only serves to heighten tension.

Politicians should forward themselves to serve the people and they can render no greater service to the people of Jamaica at this time than to give them peace and a violent-free election. [end recording]

President of the Private Sector Organization of Jamaica [PSOJ], Mr (Peter Trow), reading the statement on behalf of the group of 18.

He noted that in a climate of violence and lawlessness, the entire nation suffers from a drying up of investment and a decline in other economic activity. The statement said that Jamaica has a capacity to solve its problems in a peaceful, democratic framework.

[Begin (Trow) recording] We believe we speak for the law-abiding majority of this country in saying we are sick of delays and excuses. We are sick of the violence and partisan point scoring and are disappointed by our political leaders delay in fulfilling their national duty.

We want peace. We wish the peace agreement signed by independently [words indistinct]. [end recording]

PSOJ President (Peter Trow).

Poll Shows Manley 'Most Admired Politician'

FL2507212388 Bridgetown CANA in English
1805 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, July 25, CANA—Opposition leader Michael Manley is the most admired politician in Jamaica, commanding a 14 per cent lead on Prime Minister Edward Seaga, according to the findings of a new poll published here. The poll by Professor Carl Stone was conducted between July 7 and 11, a week before the annual conference of Seaga's Jamaica Labour Party (JLP). It has a sample error of plus or minus three per cent. Stone said that Manley was supported by 38 per cent among persons asked who was the politician most admired. Seaga had a 35 per cent support.

Pearnel Charles, the minister of public utilities and transport in Seaga's government, and People's National Party (PNP) vice president, Portia Simpson, tied for third place with eight per cent. Both were ahead of deputy prime minister, Hugh Shearer, and PNP chairman, P.J. Patterson, who each had five percent. Patterson is seen as the man most likely to take over from Manley as PNP leader.

Stone found that more people—35 per cent—were now saying things had gotten better for them since the JLP came to power in 1980, but the dominant remained that things had gotten worse. Between October 1980 when Seaga came to office and May 1982 a majority 53 per cent felt their living standards improved under the JLP. However that figure slumped dramatically between 1985 and 1986 after the government imposed an economic austerity programme.

In 1985 only 18 per cent said their situations had improved, rising to 23 per cent in 1986, 26 per cent in January of this year and 35 per cent in July. Stone said that the growth in the economy since 1986 had served to reverse the negative trend.

"The dominant view, however, is still that conditions have gotten worse since 1980, although since 1985 this view has declined from 56 per cent to 39 per cent," said Stone. Stone said voters felt that creating jobs, improving education, providing homes for the poor and improving other social services were the priorities for the next government.

Trinidad and Tobago

Opposition Senators Walk Out on Bill Debate

FL2107113488 Bridgetown CANA in English
2153 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, July 19, CANA—All six opposition members of the Trinidad and Tobago Senate on Tuesday staged a walk out after an afternoon of procedural arguments with acting President Leonard Bradshaw.

The People's National Movement (PNM) senators left the chamber after disagreeing with Bradshaw's handling of anti-PNM comments by Government Senator George Weekes. Bradshaw had ruled against Weekes' comments but did not have them withdrawn from the Senate records.

"We are not tolerating that. We may be small in number but we are sticking to the principle of parliamentary democracy," PNM leader in Senate, Senator Dr Keith Rowley, told reporters outside the chamber.

It was first time PNM senators had withdrawn from the upper house during the current parliamentary session.

Speaking as the other five angry senators marched up and down letting everyone in the corridor outside the chamber know what had happened, Rowley accused Bradshaw of using his position as acting president while

President Michael Williams is away, to "Bail out" Government's members. "We've been pushed to the limit. ...We've got six senators to their 17 or how many they're still abusing the parliamentary proceedures," an angry Rowley complained.

Bradshaw had appealed three times during the course of the afternoon for discipline as, first of all, senators argued about the late start of question time, the adjournment of question time, and the number of supplementary questions posed by the PNM to government ministers.

The walk-out came during debate on an amendment to governments controversial bill to establish free trade zones. The PNM called for a division over whether the Senate should debate an amendment to government's controversial bill to establish a free trade zone authority.

Last week, senators turned down such debate seeking more time to look at the minor amendments to the bill which has caused much public and political debate. When debate on the amendments got underway after the stormy question session, Weekes stood up to maintain his stance in abstaining from the overall bill. However, his comments against the PNM caused Bradshaw to ask the clerk to disregard this first set of statements. Following a volley of comments thrown across the chamber at the PNM benches, Weekes then continued his contribution only to make another accusation. As the retired unionist continued his attack on the former ruling party, PNM senators jumped up to call for this to also be removed and for an apology.

Stating that the bill was being debated in a hurry since the legislation needed to be passed before Industry Minister Senator Ken Gordon returns from the Far East with possible investment for the proposed free trade zones, Bradshaw ruled that the comments were out of order. He then told Weekes that he would not have to withdraw the remarks but should continue.

At this point, Senators Keith Rowley, Robin Montano, and Kenneth Valley noisily packed up their cases and walked out of the chamber. They were followed minutes later by Senators Donna Prowell, Agatha Beckles—in the senate for the first time for vacationing Senator Augustus Ramrekersingh—and Senator Winston Moore who packed up to the accompaniment of government senators rapping their desks welcoming the departure.

The amendments were passed without the opposition and the six senators went outside to complain about Bradshaw to reporters before leaving for an early tea.

"The country has to be aware of what is going on in this parliament....we have to think about whether we can sit in this parliament under vice president Bradshaw," Rowley said.

"The vice president is biased...he is not impartial."

"They are using the parliament as a rubber stamp. Minister Gordon is already in Hong Kong under the aegis of a bill which has not yet passed the parliament," Rowley complained.

"The second part is the conduct of the government side and the conduct of the vice president...this parliament is coming into ill repute."

El Salvador

Duarte Says Nicaragua Violates Esquipulas

PA2607030688 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 25 Jul 88

["Excerpt" of statements by President Jose Napoleon Duarte in San Salvador on 25 July—recorded]

[Text] First of all, I believe Esquipulas II has achieved most of its goals and has achieved the distinction of becoming a document of principles. I believe it has become Central America's second declaration of independence, because all the Central American countries freely stated their views in the document. They told the world that Central America's decisions are made in Central America.

This is a phenomenon... [changes thought] the declaration applies to all countries, and you have seen the results. All countries had to accept our decision, and that includes everyone—Europe, South America, the Contadora Group, and the United States. Everyone had to recognize that the Central American nations have the right to make their own decisions.

The Esquipulas II agreements include a series of points that must be complied with in the short term. Some of the points have been complied with, but others have not. Your question specifically refers to Nicaragua. I must say that, in my opinion, Nicaragua signed the document because the Nicaraguan Government wanted us to believe it would honor its commitments—or at least try to honor them. This, however, would obviously bring the Nicaraguan Government close to democracy.

I have already said that Esquipulas II meant Nicaragua would have to choose between a Marxist totalitarianism and a democratic socialism. However, the regime could not withstand an ideological confrontation—which would weaken it—so it opted for a Marxist totalitarianism. This is what happened. You have recently witnessed a number of events that prove it much more clearly than what Daniel Ortega said in his latest statement. He said: We are socialists and internationalists. He meant: We support all the world's guerrillas in defeating all the peace initiatives. In other words, he said: We support the FMLN.

You cannot expect him to be more clear or specific about Nicaragua's interference in another country's internal affairs. Consequently, I can rightfully say that Nicaragua has not honored its commitments.

MNR Proposes Ungo as Presidential Candidate

PA2607034188 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Text] Today the National Revolutionary Movement [MNR] decided to participate in the 1989 presidential elections and proposed Dr Guillermo Manuel Ungo as its candidate. The official announcement was issued this morning by Dr Hector Oqueli Colindres, who told Radio Cadena YSU the MNR will participate under the banner of the Democratic Merger, a coalition of the Popular Social Christian Movement, MPSC, and the Social Democratic Party, PSD.

This marks the beginning of primary elections within the Democratic Merger. According to Oqueli, they will create conditions to benefit the Salvadoran people and not personal ambitions, because a campaign should revolve around programs and not people. Oqueli also explained the decision was approved by the MNR following 2 months of consultations with all the party's rank and file. All have unanimously agreed to participate in the 1989 presidential elections. If Ungo is accepted by the Democratic Merger, they would only have to choose the vice presidential candidate. The candidate could either be Ruben Zamora of the MPSC or Mario Roldan of the PSD.

Honduras

President Azcona Comments on Violence, Economy

PA2607000888 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 23 Jul 88 p 2

[Article by EL HERALDO editor Eduardo Maldonado]

[Excerpts] Yesterday Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo told EL HERALDO he is very concerned about the "reappearance of rebel, terrorist violence in the country." According to Azcona, he thought the violence of 1982 had almost completely disappeared, but he is now convinced this is not the case and that the terrorist, rebel actions have reappeared.

Azcona Hoyo believes the renewed violence can be part of a plan to which the Honduran Armed Forces should pay more attention, because their duty is to protect and provide security for all Hondurans.

"I believe we must support the Army so it may counterattack the violence that has appeared in the country's main cities. It is also important that the entire population reject all negative attitudes, regardless of the ideology from which they come," the president added.

Azcona said he is waiting for a report the subcommission in charge of analyzing the problem of violence will present. The Army will discuss the report and it will decide what actions to take to counterattack the wave of violence. [passage omitted]

President Azcona freed himself from any responsibility concerning the enormous growth of the fiscal deficit. "The fiscal deficit did not increase during my government; on the contrary, it decreased. I believe, however, not enough has been done for the international creditors to believe larger loans can be granted to Honduras."

Azcona said that in 1985, the fiscal deficit increased over 9 percent, and in 1986 it decreased 8 percent. He added that this year, he is committed to lowering it to 5.5. percent of the GNP.

Azcona Hoyo hopes to hand over the government to his successor with a 0-percent fiscal deficit or perhaps with a fiscal deficit of 2 percent of the GNP.

Azcona insisted the "tax-reduction" bill is only a mild measure, but that some sectors, such as "the left," want to promote a peoples confrontation, using the tax issue as an excuse.

Concerning opposition within his own party, Azcona said the opposition exists because some sectors "are striving to make themselves deserving of merit before the people, and the same thing goes for the National Party."

Azcona said the executive decree announcing an austerity policy in public administration is not a new measure, and he believes the one decreed last year was fulfilled to a large extent.

Regalado Dismisses Military Coup Rumors

PA2507180388 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1130 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Report by Danilo Antunez on statements by General Humberto Regalado Hernandez, commander in chief of the Armed Forces; date and place not given—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] General Humberto Regalado Hernandez, commander of the Honduran Armed Forces, dismissed rumors that the bickering among politicians could force Armed Forces personnel to stage a military coup.

[Regalado] "I feel military coups are the product of immature people's minds. Military coups are now a thing of the past, and you have heard Armed Forces statements asserting that we are trying to strengthen the democratic system, because it is a system that appeals to all Hondurans."

The general also expressed his support for strengthening the national economy as one of the best ways to fight violence and as an alternative to increasing the Armed Forces' military power.

[Regalado] "We in the Armed Forces believe that instead of beginning an arms race or increasing the size of our forces, what is actually needed is increased economic assistance and the implementation of development programs, so that people who have jobs and food to eat can provide a consolidated internal front for the Armed Forces, an internal front that would support Armed Forces' actions, as occurred in 1969."

On a different subject, Gen Regalado Hernandez said that the Armed Forces' charter and the law on compulsory military service are being reviewed.

[Regalado] "[Words indistinct] we have a commission that is reviewing the Armed Forces' charter to update it as well as the law on compulsory military service. However, the Armed Forces are not getting involved in other matters."

Nicaragua

Government Suspends Newscast for 48 Hours

PA2607044788 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 0423 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Resolution issued by the Communication Media Directorate of the Interior Ministry in Managua on 25 July]

[Text] Resolution:

The radio newscast "El Nicaraguense" broadcast a false report in its 1300 segment on 25 July, therefore violating Article No 1, Paragraph C, of the General Provisional Law on Communication Media.

According to Article 44 of the General Provisional Law on Communication Media, the Interior Ministry's Communication Media Directorate decrees the suspension of "El Nicaraguense" newscast's broadcasts for 48 hours, effective on the notification of the resolution.

Issued in Managua on 25 July 1988.

Obando y Bravo on Arms Buildup, Closed Media

PA2507204088 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Excerpt] During his homily on Sunday, Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo condemned the arms buildup and criticized the government for defending itself against the attacks of the counterrevolutionary forces financed by the U.S. Government. The cardinal continued to ignore the fact that the hardships the Nicaraguan people are enduring basically result from this aggression. After mass, he met with newsmen and made the following statements:

[Begin recording] [Obando y Bravo] Apparently, what they [not further identified] are doing is preparing for war, but I think we must continue to try to see if the conflict can be settled with the force of reason and not the force of weapons.

[Reporter, in progress] ...at Msgr Mondragon's [not further identified] office?

[Obando y Bravo] (?Well, yes). Commander Doris Tijerino, national chief of the Sandinist police, called Msgr Mondragon in and asked him to explain some remarks he made during his homily. I think one of the remarks was that some children die of malnutrition and diarrhea.

She also said he was calling for civil disobedience. He stressed that he was preaching the gospel and had no intention of inciting civil disobedience.

[Reporter] What can you tell us about the mothers who visit you on Thursdays at the archbishoporic curia?

[Obando y Bravo] We are always praying for them. I personally met one group, then Msgr Bosco [Vivas] met with them, Msgr Mata met them again, and so did Msgr Leopoldo. I think this is the fifth time we have met with them.

You know, we have interceded for 26 prisoners that some said were to be set free. I sent a person—an auxiliary bishop—to Guatemala to meet the prisoners the National Resistance [RN] wanted. I do not know what happened between our government and the Guatemalan Government, but they did not reach an agreement and the exchange could not be made. Of course, I would have liked the RN to be flexible, too. However, there being no flexibility on the part of the RN, if the Nicaraguan Government had wanted to give peace of mind to those good mothers, it could have allowed the prisoners to be turned over in Guatemala and they would be here in Nicaragua enjoying the company of their relatives.

[Reporter] Your Eminence, during the past few days, the counterrevolution... [changes thought] I am from La Voz de Nicaragua. We are broadcasting live. We come to your sanctuary every Sunday. Today in your homily you mentioned that there is hunger in this country. However, the counterrevolution and the U.S. Government have harmed Nicaragua to the tune of $17 billion and the U.S. Government continues waging war on the Nicaraguan Government. What can you say about this?

[Obando y Bravo] I spoke clearly during the homily. I said that while one hears talk about peace, some media—I don't know if La Voz de Nicaragua does this—seem to be abetting war and the RN also continues encouraging war through its media. So there is talk of peace but at the same time one gets the impression from what one sees in the media that both the Nicaraguan Government and the RN are preparing for war. I would say that the war has brought adversity, but if we Nicaraguans do not resolve the problem we do not want others to resolve it for us either. [sentence as heard]

[Reporter] The government decreed 30 more days [words indistinct] reopening of Radio Catolica.

[Obando y Bravo] Well, this depends on the government. Radio Catolica wanted to broadcast the message of the gospel but the Nicaraguan Government has closed it indefinitely. I think the church needs to have its own media to spread the light of the gospel and the Lord's word to all corners of Nicaragua.

[Reporter] Has the church lodged an official protest with the government regarding Msgr Mondragon's case?

[Obando y Bravo] Not officially, but we can talk about this. I think we can talk about this next Thursday. I expect the Reconciliation Commission to be there. Dr Sergio Ramirez and Presidency Minister Rene Nunez will be there and we can talk because all these things are discussed in the Reconciliation Commission. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Tirado on Opposition, Shultz Tour, Economy

PA2607031588 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 25 Jul 88 pp 1, 8

[Text] The 14 opposition political parties are nothing more than a reflection of the interventionist U.S. Government policy, Commander of the Revolution Victor Tirado Lopez said during a textile industry assembly.

While delivering a speech to some 700 workers of the Nicaraguan textile industry at the PROSAN [Health Products of Nicaragua, Inc.] factory installations, Tirado Lopez said Nicaragua is going through a period of survival, adding that the country is facing the Reagan administration's destructive policy.

Tirado Lopez said that in this context, the opposition forces believe the revolution is going through a crisis; however, he added that the political parties that have joined a coalition of 14 opposition organizations are the ones going through a decadent stage.

The 14 parties, which are trying to overthrow the Nicaraguan revolution, have failed in their attempt to bring the country back to the past, to the times of Somoza, Tirado Lopez said.

Tirado Lopez noted the rainbow of rightist and so-called leftist political organizations are bound by the same interest, which is to destroy the revolution. He said they have supported the Reagan administration plan to achieve this goal.

"The 14 opposition political parties are committed to the Somozists and to the imperialist policies," Tirado Lopez said. He added that the intention of the coalition to form a national salvation government is not a contra strategy but a tactical step that will also fail.

Tirado Lopez, who is the FSLN National Directorate official in charge of mass organizations, said if the 14 political parties want a national salvation government, they will have to be prepared to face the consequences.

Tirado Lopez said if the COSEP [Higher Council of Private Enterprise] leaders want to recover their privileges, they must be clear as to what they will have to confront, and they should not go crying to the White House or to other Central American governments later on.

Regarding the Central American governments, Tirado Lopez regretted the use of Costa Rican territory by George Shultz to proclaim the need to destroy the brotherhood in the area.

Tirado Lopez said Nicaragua will never allow its territory to be used to attack another country. He said that Shultz' tour to Central America only reflects the Reagan administration's belief that for democracy to be present in Central America, the Sandinist revolution must be destroyed.

As for Michael Dukakis, the current Democratic Party candidate for the U.S. presidential elections, Tirado Lopez said he seems to be a man with whom one could talk. He pointed out that the Massachusetts governor recently said the Sandinists are not a threat to his country.

Tirado Lopez said it is a shame that the Central American presidents believe the Sandinists are a threat to the area and to the United States.

As for the economic measures implemented by the government, Tirado Lopez said the authorities are pleased with the understanding and actions carried out by the labor movement. He also pointed out the Nicaraguan economy is geared toward increasing exports and internal consumption and all efforts should be made with that purpose in mind.

State Security Disbands PSC Cell in Chinandega

PA2607003088 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 25 Jul 88 pp 1, 5

[Excerpts] Members of a Social Christian Party [PSC] cell responsible for planning activities aimed at promoting civil disobedience, violence, and disregard for the law were arrested on 16 July by state security agents in Chinandega.

Jose Leonel Cruz Ruiz, Justo Ramon Mendoza Mendoza, Luis Alberto Luna Barrios, and Ezequiel Ochoa Martinez, members of the Social Christian Revolutionary Youth, are responsible for drafting and distributing mimeographed copies of leaflets and other material inciting civil disobedience. This was done with the approval of PSC leaders of the Agustin Jarquin Anaya faction. The group used the typewriters and paper found at PSC headquarters in Chinandega.

An Interior Ministry source said the cell had written and sent several letters to neighboring governments asking them to find jobs for Nicaraguan youths who were trying to evade the Patriotic Military Service and who had left the country illegally. According to the same source, the letters were signed by Santiago Ticay Garcia, PSC secretary in Chinandega. [passage omitted]

The members of the cell, identified as the "anti-Sandinist rebel command," distributed a communique telling the people: "We are not Somozists; we are guerrillas of the people born during the struggle against Somoza. Trust God and our struggle." The communique and other material was printed on paper with a letterhead that reads: "Courtesy of the PSC."

The Interior Ministry reported that the members of the so-called Social Christian Revolutionary Youth have made many trips abroad. The source mentioned the trips made by PSC Treasurer Ana Maria Aguirre de Gutierrez and other members of the Social Christian Women's Union, and added that during those trips they met with Adolfo Calero and Azucena Ferrey, who gave them money to open human rights centers in various areas of the country. [passage omitted]

Panama

Ritter on U.S. Actions, Future Relations

LD2407160788 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1420 GMT 24 Jul 88

["Pool" item]

[Text] Panama, July 24, (TANJUG)—"The period until the year 2000 will be extremely difficult for Panama, because, regardless of who is elected president, the United States will continue implementing the same strategy of exerting pressure on Panama. The methods could be changed, but the objective remains the same—to keep the Pentagon's bases in Panama even after the end of the century," Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Eduardo Ritter told TANJUG's correspondent Dusan Dakovic in an exclusive interview.

Ritter (38) said that "no illusions should be harboured" about the future of U.S.-Panamanian relations. It will be a constant low-intensity war, as this strategy has been called in Washington.

"There is a number of Latin American countries, and I do not wish to name them, which have distanced themselves from Panama, in response to pressure from the United States," Ritter said.

Panama has been suspended from membership in the "Group of Eight" (Contadora and Cartagena) after the showdown President Eric Arturo Delvalle had in March with the country's "strongman," General Antonio Noriega, commander-in-chief of the armed forces.

Delvalle was relieved of his post and the country's Parliament named Solis Palma president until new presidential elections are held in May 1989.

Ritter holds that the position of Panama, after an extremely difficult year which started last year with attacks against Noriega, initially by the opposition and then by Washington, "is on the one hand strengthening and on the other weakening."

"We are counting on more solidarity and understanding, but we are also suffering extremely serious economic blows," he said.

"The United States is propagating the version that this is a war against one man only, General Noriega (who it is accusing without proof of being linked with the Latin American narcotics cartel), while what it really wants is

to ensure its continued military presence by keeping its bases in Panama, within the Southern Command (USSOUTHCO)," Ritter said.

"Instead of an invasion, the United States is now threatening with aggression and dealing Panama progressively more severe economic blows, which are shaking the country's economy. It are [as received] trying to fortify the Panamanian opposition and cause division in the army top and the government," Ritter said.

"In essence, Panama is paying the price for an independent foreign policy," he said.

Ritter said that the United States would not try for a revision of the agreement which gives the waterway linking the Atlantic and Pacific oceans back to Panama on December 31, 1999, "as we already control the canal in practice," but that it would try in every manner possible to keep its military bases in Panama.

"We shall ask the non-aligned countries for special support at their next ministerial meeting in Nicosia (set for September this year). We shall not ask for aid or money on a multilateral plane, but we shall try instead to improve our economic relations in bilateral contacts," Ritter said.

Assessing Yugoslav-Panamanian relations as excellent, Ritter said that "we regard Yugoslavia as not only one of the leading non-aligned countries but also as a country which was able to follow consistently the principles agreed to at the 1961 Belgrade non-aligned conference, always siding with Panama and other Latin American countries which had similar experiences."

Having a strong president and a government capable of preserving its national integrity, Panama is now stronger than ever, Ritter said, adding that the opposition had compromised itself with its behaviour quite sufficient in the past year so as to have no prospects for success at next year's elections.

Liberal Party Leader on Conflict, U.S. Relations

PA2507142288 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 24 Jul 88 pp A-1, B-6

[Report on interview with Alfredo Aleman Jr, former Liberal Party leader and former finance minister, by LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA reporter Camilo O. Baruco—date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA asked Alfredo Aleman Jr: What contribution do you think you could make to national unity? He replied: "Under the current circumstances, we cannot exclude the Panama Defense Forces from the necessary meetings to reach a national reconciliation among the forces in conflict."

Alfredo Aleman believes that some difficulties could be overcome if government and opposition politicians put aside partisan interests. He said: "With much regret we see that today intransigence, arrogance, selfishness, and envy, combined with the shortsightedness with which we regard the future, are our worst sins. These sins unfortunately prevail in the spirit of those of us who, in light of the current circumstances, should reach understandings with no subservience or prior conditions. Reaching understandings is a civic duty we must not avoid. We are all Panamanians and we must each assume responsibilities during these difficult times." [passage omitted]

As for the United States, Aleman said it must understand the need to promote unity and mutual understandings, which, in turn, would help the United States to salvage its own image, which has been quite affected by its misguided policy with regard to Panama. The Liberal Party leader believes that a cordial attitude would be the catalyst for the renewal of the good relations that must exist between the two partners sharing responsibility for the Panama Canal.

Aleman does not believe that the United States has been very fair with our country. He said: "The United States bases its power on the principles of justice and fair play, yet today it is being neither just nor fair with Panama." He added that the United States should fulfill the Torrijos-Carter treaties that obligate the United States to pay canal annuities and that do not include the right to use military bases to meddle in our country's internal affairs.

The attitude shown by the United States "is specifically banned in the treaties and sets a bad example for other countries where the United States has military bases," Aleman said. [passage omitted]

I sincerely believe that the Liberal Party, without harboring resentments, must work to obtain the internal party reforms required within the party. It should not enter a political campaign as a conservative dynasty that clings to outdated formulas that are completely out of touch with modern times, Aleman added.

Aleman viewed the issue of the national economy from the viewpoint of sovereignty: "Our country's struggle for territorial and political sovereignty must be reinforced by a firm effort to attain economic sovereignty. I believe economic sovereignty can best be attained by establishing a unique free port system in the entire Panamanian territory. [quotation marks as published] [passage omitted]

Because Aleman is also a Panamanian industrialist and businessmen who knows our country's economic problems, LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA asked him what he thought could resolve these problems. His response was that Panama should: (1) Eliminate customs tariffs on all products that are not produced in Panama. He said that this measure would not have a negative effect on national industry or on the agriculture or livestock sectors. (2) Give government protection to national production. He added, however, that this protection

must not degenerate to the point of offering poor quality products at exorbitant prices to Panamanian consumers and tourists who visit our country.

Extradition Sought for Belgium, Brazil Envoys
PA2507172288 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 25 Jul 88 p 16

[Text] A charge of usurping functions has been filed with the Attorney General's Office against Angel Riera Diaz, who has been representing himself as Panama's ambassador to Belgium.

The Panamanian Foreign Ministry has received information in this regard from members of the diplomatic corps serving in various cities on the old continent and from people who have been deceived.

That individual apparently has continued to reside in Europe without performing any diplomatic functions while still "enjoying" the advantages and prestige of the position of "ambassador," which he filled several years ago.

Meanwhile, it was learned that the Panamanian Government will request the extradition of Mauricio Bares Weeden, who formerly served as Panamanian consul general in Rio de Janeiro.

Government sources have publicly reported that Bares Weeden has not reported or remitted funds received by the consulate in Rio de Janeiro since January of this year as is his duty, which makes him an embezzler of funds belonging to the Panamanian state.

The Foreign Ministry has also requested the extradition of Riera Diaz.

Argentina

Alfonsin Comments on Economy, Foreign Debt

PY2507222288 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1438 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 25 Jul (NA)—Today President Raul Alfonsin said that "the basis of social justice, which is necessary for independent development in a modern society, will be established" by the conclusion of his presidential term. He also called on the foreign creditors to become aware of the "painfu' effect" the debt has on social affairs.

Alfonsin, opening a seminar on minorities and human rights, said that when he leaves the government on 10 December 1989 he will have "the modest satisfaction" of "having set up the platform on which our country's economy can develop."

Alfonsin added: "I believe that this is not everything, but it is a great deal." He also said that foreign creditors "cannot understand that our urgent needs require that they quickly come to realize that the debt has not only an economic impact but also a social one." [passage omitted]

Alfonsin also referred to the "great economic problems affecting Latin America as a whole" and to other situations "which prevent democracies from making the social achievements that they are always willing to carry out."

He told foreign creditors that "it is necessary to understand that democracy is back in Latin America, but it came back to a devastated economy, as if coming out of war."

He also said that "it is necessary to mention this when we talk about our children because the future depends on what we do for them now."

In this regard Alfonsin mentioned the importance of the projects drawn by the Secretariat for Human Development and Family, which are now in Congress for debate.

Sourrouille Confirms Deindexation Proposal

PY2607030088 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1436 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 25 Jul (DYN)—Today Economy Minister Juan Vital Sourrouille admitted that "the government can certainly control inflation more vigorously than it has been doing," and he confirmed that the government will propose the deindexation of the economy through an agreement "once the fiscal situation improves and the difficulties of the external financial front ease up."

Sourrouille made those statements during the University of El Salvador television program "Noticiero Semanal Synopsis," in which he talked about the foreign debt, measures to curb inflation, deindexation of the economy through agreement, the fiscal situation, the Austral Plan, exports, and investments.

In the television interview Sourrouille affirmed that "the foreign debt is not the single cause of all Argentine woes, but it greatly restricts our growth possibilities." He pointed out that "the country just threw away the money it borrowed."

He added that "because to service the debt we have to transfer abroad part of what we produce, we find that growth is more difficult. This is why the government has pursued, and continues to pursue, a policy of negotiation, seeking to minimize the transfer of resources abroad."

Regarding inflation and the possibility that the economic team may implement a plan similar to the Austral Plan to curb it, the minister said: "We all know that inflation is a nuisance in our daily life, and that, at the levels it has reached in this country, inflation does not help growth, but stymies it." He admitted that the government can certainly control inflation more vigorously than it has been doing, and he pointed out that "some thought must be given to the fact that in the past, under this government, inflation was effectively brought down."

Referring to the Austral Plan, Sourrouille affirmed that "it was no doubt successful," although he admitted that "there were some errors—in some cases errors in the way it was conceived, and in other cases errors in political evaluation that led us to insist on carrying the plan forward."

The minister then explained that "the plan of economic reforms has allowed us to make progress in many ways. As a result, the situation is today less dangerous that it was early in 1985, when the Austral Plan was launched. We and the country have learned it is not quite correct to think that inflation can be tamed forever by magic."

He then said that "some basic conditions of the economy must be improved so that we can be better off than we were then." He noted that "the fiscal situation is already under better control and that Argentina's economic relations with the rest of the world are better because the balance of payments have positive prospects."

Although the minister considered those two points as positive, he admitted that "a better fiscal situation must be attained and the external financial difficulties must be eased" as preconditions for deindexation of the economy through an agreement among all social sectors.

Sidestepping a question as to when the new deindexation plan might be implemented, Sourrouille affirmed that "an agreement is desirable and possible. What is needed from a continuous indexation of the economy is the shared will of everyone to do so, a sense of collective responsibility to fight inflation."

Asked why not enough investments are made in Argentina, Sourrouille said that "the debt forces us to transfer a large part of internal savings abroad to service it, and those savings are needed for investments in the country."

Explaining the conditions necessary for investments, the minister said: "The second condition is to attract foreign savings, and the third is to offer possibilities for expanding markets."

Sourrouille added that "investments are being made, sufficient investments, and although people do not realize it, from $12 to $13 billion is being invested every year." [passage omitted]

Caputo on Arrested Chileans; Meets Costa Rican

PY2507170488 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1615 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Jul (NA)—Today Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo ruled out the possibility of any problems in the relations between Argentina and Chile as a result of the arrests, in Argentina, of Chilean and Argentine citizens who allegedly belong to a guerrilla organization struggling against General Augusto Pinochet's regime.

Caputo said: "We are currently conducting an investigation and there are no reasons why this episode should affect relations between the two countries." He added that "for the time being," the Argentine Government is "keeping the matter confidential so as to not hamper investigations."

The foreign minister made this statement to NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS after meeting with Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto, with whom he analyzed the situation in Central America for an hour and a half.

In the course of an impromptu press conference which he held with his Costa Rican counterpart, Caputo said that his meeting with Madrigal Nieto was "very interesting," adding that in addition to the Central American situation, the two discussed "possibilities of developing bilateral relations."

Madrigal Nieto said that he has brought a letter from Costa Rican President Cesar Arias to Argentine President Raul Alfonsin in which the latter is invited to visit Costa Rica.

Speaking about Argentina's role in the Central American conflict, the Costa Rican foreign minister said that Argentina "has the qualities, the possibility, and the experience to contribute to attaining peace in that region."

He added that Argentina can conduct an enormously useful task, helping to bring peace and rapprochement to Central America, not only of the [words indistinct] and help democratic regimes."

Madrigal Nieto arrived in Argentina for a 2-day official visit. Today he lunched with his Argentine counterpart and tomorrow he will hold a news conference in which he is expected to discuss the Central American situation in detail.

Upon arriving in Argentina, Madrigal Nieto said that Latin America's foreign debt "cannot be paid the way it is right now," and he said that the Esquipulas plan, aimed at attaining peace in Central America, "has experienced a setback."

He also said that "we cannot, and will not, sacrifice the development of our peoples and our ability to produce more in order to pay the foreign debt." He urged "both creditors and debtors to come up with imaginative, nontraditional formulas" in the quest for solutions.

Argentine Linked to Chile's FPMR Arrested

PY2507223688 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 25 Jul 88 p 3

[Excerpt] Yesterday new police operations, ordered by Federal Judge Alberto Piotti of San Isidro in connection with the discovery of a group of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR], an armed group opposed to the regime of Chilean President Augusto Pinochet, led to the arrest of another individual.

The operations were conducted in Buenos Aires Province and in the Federal Capital. The arrested man, who was not identified, is an Argentine citizen who lives on Bilbao Street, Floresta district.

So far the people who were arrested on Piotti's orders are the Chileans Rolando Escobar, Hector Palma, Luis Kroijevic, Cristina Donato Avendano, and Josefina Asenjo Zapata, the Argentines Eduardo Bulacio and Jose Alberto Rapachiani, and the man arrested in Floresta yesterday.

According to judicial sources three people are fugitives. Two of them are Boris Reisin and Luis Carlos Fiori.

The same sources indicated that the police conducted several operations yesterday on orders from Judge Piotti, who is going to evaluate the results of the operations first thing this morning. [passage omitted]

Chileans Photograph Army Base; Arrested

PY2507015888 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2230 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Jul (NA)—Today the Army staff officially reported that Army personnel have arrested four Chileans in Neuquen Province who were trying to take pictures of the facilities of a regiment from within a military area.

The arrested Chileans are Marcelo Munoz Llanos, Andres Munoz Llanos, Pablo Zalazar Alul, and Miguel Sepulveda Rivera. They were placed at the disposal of the Neuquen federal court.

The arrest was made yesterday at noon, but it was made public late this afternoon through an official Army communique.

The four Chileans entered the country through the border town of Las Cuevas, Mendoza Province, and were heading for Bariloche on Highway 40.

The guards of the 10th Mountain Infantry Regiment, headquartered in Cobunco Centro, arrested the four Chileans as they were taking pictures of the unit from within a military area.

Shortly afterward they were placed at the disposal of the provincial police and the federal court, which have already begun the proceedings.

Military sources said that the Chileans were taking pictures of various places in the Argentine mountain range as they drove along Highway 40.

The Army official communique did not link this arrest with the recent events in Escobar, Buenos Aires, where eight Chileans were arrested on charges of alleged membership in Chilean terrorist groups.

Officers 'Acted as Advisers' to Contras

PY2507155988 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1918 GMT 24 Jul 88

[Text] Rosario, 24 Jul (TELAM)—Nicaraguan Commander Omar Cabezas has disclosed that 70 Argentine military officers acted as advisers to the Nicaraguan contras in 1982, during the time of General Leopoldo Galtieri's de facto government.

Cabezas, who was in Rosario presiding over a ceremony to celebrate the 9th anniversary of the Sandinist revolution in Nicaragua, added that during an operation, they arrested one of those advisers.

The Nicaraguan commander, in a statement to the local media, said that Nicaragua is at war with the most powerful country of the world, the United States. We are protecting ourselves, as any human being would, from the cold—by wearing a sweater.

Regarding the closing down of Radio Catolica and the daily LA PRENSA, which belongs to the Chamorro family, he explained that they violated Nicaraguan laws and incited the people to rebel against the new legal regime by, for example, urging them not to do their military service.

Cabezas, who participated in the takeover of Anastasio Somoza's government palace with Commander Eden Pastora, asserted that the U.S. ambassador was expelled from his country because he interfered in domestic affairs by actively participating in political demonstrations, acting and shouting like any Nicaraguan citizen. He added that this is not allowed in the United States or any other country of the world. Everyone should realize that Nicaragua is not being leased, nor is it a banana republic. We respect the rest of the world, and we wish to be respected.

Bolivia

Trafficker Linked to Medellin Cartel Arrested

PY2507140488 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1442 GMT 24 Jul 88

[Text] La Paz, 24 Jul (AFP)—Today the police reported here that Rosa Angulo Fernandez, alias La Chota Rosa, an important drug trafficker who has connections with the Medellin Cartel, has been detained in Cochabamba, in central Bolivia.

La Chota Rosa buys basic cocaine paste (PBC) from the different production centers in the Chapare region and sells it to the crystallization laboratories in eastern Bolivia or directly to Colombia and Brazil.

The police added that agents of the special antinarcotics police forces have been looking for La Chota Rosa for several months. It is believed that her testimony could help unveil the secret activities of organized drug trafficking groups in Bolivia and their international connections.

Brazil

Foreign Debt Interest Payments Made Current

PY2607001588 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2255 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Text] As a demonstration of good will, today Brazil paid the overdue interest for June and part of July, totaling $1 billion. This money was taken from Brazil's own reserves.

This is the first time since the moratorium declaration that Brazil has been current on its interest payments.

Guimaraes Calls U.S. Decision 'Irrelevant'

PY2507153988 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 24 Jul 88 p 36

[Text] Brasilia—Yesterday Constituent Assembly President Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes stated that the U.S. commercial sanctions against Brazil, which result from the conflict over patents of pharmaceutical products, will have no effect on the second round of voting at the Constituent Assembly. Guimaraes does not believe that Constituent Assembly members would impose greater restrictions on foreign capital in retaliation for the U.S. decision.

Guimaraes stated: "We do not seek vengeance, we are calm, and we will act sensibly. We will not be influenced by temporary emotions."

However, Guimares criticized the U.S. decision, calling it "irrelevant." He added that the pharmaceutical industry is controlled by multinational companies, including U.S. companies. Should the United States assess the situation more carefully, it will not insist on adopting this measure," he said. [quotation mark as published]

Rio Grande do Sul Governor Pedro Simon, who was also at Guimaraes' house yesterday, called the U.S. sanction a "purely electoral decision."

Government To Ask for Sanctioned Products List

PY2507132588 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Text] Brazil will ask the United States to publish, as soon as possible, the list of products to be affected by the retaliation that results from the pharmaceutical patents conflict.

According to Foreign Minister Abreu Sodre, Brazil is most concerned about the psychological pressure on U.S. importers who will be unsure if the products they purchase will be free of restrictions.

Sodre explained that this situation can reduce purchases and cause tremendous damage to Brazil.

Chile

Junta To Choose Presidential Candidate 30 Aug

PY2507123888 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Text] The commanders in chief of the Armed Forces and Carabineros will meet on 30 August to appoint the presidential candidate for the 1989-97 period.

This decision was announced through an agreement that is published today in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE. The meeting will be held at the Defense Ministry. Captain General Augusto Pinochet Ugarte, Admiral Jose Toribio Merino, General Fernando Matthei, and Carabineros Director General Rodolfo Stange will attend the meeting.

Should an agreement be reached regarding the candidate, according to the text of the document, the decision will be announced during a solemn ceremony at the Diego Portales building. However, if no agreement is reached within 48 hours after the start of the meeting, the National Security Council will be summoned.

It should also be pointed out that once the name of the candidate is published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE the electoral registry offices will close. This agreement was reached in compliance with Article 1, Clause A, of the document published on 14 July regarding the meeting that the commanders in chief of the Armed Forces and Carabineros will hold to appoint the candidate.

It is also stated that following the 30 August meeting, should an agreement be reached regarding the appointment, the name will be announced as soon as possible.

If no agreement is reached, however, within 48 hours after the meeting starts, ad hoc secretary General Enrique Montero will officially inform the chief of state of the situation and will give him a copy of the act so that he may summon the National Security Council.

The National Security Council is made up by the president of the Republic; the members of the Government Junta; the president of the Supreme Court, Luis Maldonado; the president of the State Council, Miguel Schweitzer; and the comptroller general of the Republic, Osvaldo Iturriaga.

It should be pointed out that the meeting of 30 August at the Defense Ministry will be held at noon and that the name of the presidential candidate for the 1989-97 period should be chosen on that occasion.

Plebiscite 'May Be' in Oct

PY2607022288 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile in Spanish 0030 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Excerpt] The plebiscite may be held in October, because the Constitution says that it must be held at least 30 days, but not later than 60 days, after the designation of the candidate, which will take place on 30 August. In exactly 38 [as heard] days the commanders in chief of the Armed Forces and the Carabineros director will meet at the Defense Ministry at noon to nominate the candidate that they will propose as president for 1989-97 period. This information was published in the gazette today, 37 [as heard] days before the meeting. [passage omitted]

3 FPMR Members Arrested for Carabinero's Death

PY2507205088 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Text] In the next few hours, three individuals charged with the killing of Carabineros Corporal Jaime Sandoval Mendoza will be placed by the police at the disposal of Military Judge Emilio Fomar. Police said they are all members of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR].

This morning the Carabineros Public Relations Office released an official communique stating that the three individuals confessed to their FPMR membership and to their participation in the homicide. The text of the official communique follows:

1. Regarding the institution's investigation of the 20 May murder of Carabineros Corporal Jaime Sandoval Mendoza, of the Lo Prado 26th Police Precinct, in a bus traveling from Santiago to Puente Alto, the Carabineros report they have arrested the following individuals: Miguel Angel Orellana, 32; Raul Enrique Avarca Silva, 33; and Enrique Octavio Quintillana Lillo, 24.

2. The three individuals have confessed to their participation in the murder of Sandoval and to their FPMR membership. This is fully consistent with the arms and documents found in their possession.

3. Police found one of the weapons used to kill Sandoval in the hands of the group.

4. As a result of the investigations the police seized a LAW rocket launcher, two M-16 rifles, explosives, handkerchiefs inscribed with the name of the FPMR, ammunition, radiocommunication equipment, and subversive documents.

5. The responsibility of the group for various terrorist attacks has also been established. These include planting bombs in Yungay and Santiago, and attacking the 13th Police Precinct of La Granja in March 1988.

6. According to the investigation into the murder of Sandoval, on 13 May the extremist cell received the order to attack Carabineros to steal their weapons. The cell met for the last time at 1930 on 20 May in Plaza del Pinar to coordinate the action. The group then drove to the corner of Vicuna Mackenna and Departamental and took a Santiago-Puente Alto bus. Corporal Sandoval, in uniform, was riding the bus.

When the bus reached stop No 36 on Vicuna Mackenna Avenue, two of the three individuals suddenly attacked Sandoval, who despite the surprise and his wounds was able to fire back and wound two of the criminals. After the attack the subversives stole his weapon and escaped in different directions.

7. Two other extremists involved in the case are still at large, but police have identified them.

Bomb Attacks Reported in Valdivia, San Antonio

PY2507205588 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1620 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Text] Santiago, 25 Jul (EFE)—According to official reports, three bombs exploded in the last few hours in Valdivia, in southern Chile, and in San Antonio, on the country's central coast.

In Valdivia, 835 km south of Santiago in the 10th Region, a bomb was thrown by unidentified individuals at an office of the Electoral Court, causing minor damage as well as minor injury to a poor person sleeping nearby.

In San Antonio, 120 km northwest of Santiago, a bomb exploded at the door of a telephone company office. Another bomb caused minor damage to the door of a bank branch.

Colombia

Government Not To Attend 29 Jul Meeting

PA2507194288 Paris AFP in Spanish 1722 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Text] Bogota, 25 Jul (AFP)—The Colombian Government of Liberal President Virgilio Barco will remain [words indistinct] leftist M-19 guerrillas this coming Friday, Rafael Pardo, presidential adviser for peace and rehabilitation, announced today.

"The government will not attend that meeting because it is the result of an act of imposition," Pardo stated during a visit to the guerrilla region [words indistinct].

However, Barco's government has not issued an official statement as to whether or not it will attend the summit to be chaired by Msgr Dario Castrillon, president of the Latin American Episcopal Conference (CELAM).

The country's labor unions and political parties (Liberal, Conservative, and Patriotic Union) have appointed their representatives for the meeting.

An announcement by President Barco that his government might be represented at that meeting by Liberal spokesmen was rejected. He has been asked to appoint an authoritative representative.

The announcement by presidential adviser Rafael Pardo has raised doubts as to the success of the meeting on the 29th. Meanwhile, military forces remain staunchly opposed to the summit.

Armed Forces Commander General Jaime Guerrero Paz warned that M-19 representatives who dare to go to the meeting at the nunciature, as was provided for in the agreements that permitted the safe release of Conservative Gomez Hurtado, will be arrested and their representatives imprisoned. [passage indistinct]

Paraguay

Spanish Priest Kidnapped, Expelled to Argentina

PY2507221888 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2013 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Asuncion, 25 Jul (EFE)—Juan de la Vega, a Spanish Jesuit priest, has reported that he was expelled today from Paraguay and that he is currently at the customs post of the Argentine city of Clorinda.

In a telephone call to EFE, the priest said that the Argentine authorities will not allow him to enter the country because he has no documents.

Juan de la Vega, 65, was kidnapped at noon today by several unidentified people, who violently put him into a red taxi and took him to some unknown place, according to people who witnessed the incident.

"They have left me here on the border, and they have taken away my (identity) card without giving me any documents. As I do not hava a passport, they will not let me into Argentina," the priest told EFE from the Border Patrol command post on the border, where the priest currently remains. [passage omitted]

Peru

Garcia Comments on Arms Shipment, Economy

PY2507160488 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Jul 88

[News conference held by President Alan Garcia with unidentified reporters "after the close of an APRA congressional bloc meeting" at the (Huampani) holiday resort; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Reporter] Mr President, what was the objective of the meeting held here in (Huampani)?

[Garcia] Our fellow deputies and senators evaluated their work and their individual performance at the end of their congressional functions. They also evaluated the laws they will submit during the next congressional period and the order in which those laws will be submitted. We talked about the need to modify our laws with respect to terrorism. We also mentioned the great national issues.

[Reporter] What is your opinion of the results of this meeting?

[Garcia] The results are very positive because they reflect a much stronger determination to use the next congressional period to analyze several specific issues and to implement and consolidate regionalization, which the Peruvian people demand. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Mr President, reports about the detaining of a Polish ship with arms bound for Peru has given rise to comment. What can you tell us about this?

[Garcia] This morning I called [Venezuelan] President Jaime Lusinchi over the phone, but Jaime was at a Venezuelan Army unit in Puerto Cabello. The purpose of the call was to inform him that the arms, and there are not many, are the final shipment to be sent from the GDR to improve the equipment of our police. This is a legal, public action of which all appropriate organizations are well aware. It is a 220-rifle shipment. We should recall that our police force has 20,000 GDR-made AKM rifles. This is the final shipment, which also includes rifle ammunition. It seems the ship was about to arrive in Puerto Rico, which is under U.S. administration. And that when the ship arrived at Puerto Cabello, the Puerto Rican authorities were informed that the ship was carrying arms. The fact that the arms were coming from a Eastern bloc country has caused surprise, but we have Soviet tanks and planes and Korean and Soviet rifles, and this is the final shipment of rifles. I believe this is only a matter of a lack of communication or a misunderstanding.

[Reporter] Mr President, there is an atmosphere of uncertainty on the eve of the message you will deliver on 28 July. Do you think this is justified?

[Garcia] I don't think so. Last year I proposed a measure that was publicly debated and that was aimed at stripping the owners of the industrial sector's capital from the power to control money. By no means was it aimed at promoting social hatred or at eliminating a sector. I believe this is the result of misinterpretation and concern. I don't think there is any reason for this concern. We have big problems like terrorism and economic maladjustments following 2 years of growth. All this, however, should be considered without harboring any fears. Peru is a sound, well structured country that is undergoing a process of transformation and regionalization, seeking to improve the distribution of wealth. There is no reason for any uncertainty.

[Reporter] We have heard rumors and read reports about the privatization of hospitals.

[Garcia] I have read reports that hospitals, private doctor's clinics, pharmacies, and medicine were going to be nationalized. This has been invented by some people and is the consequence of the fears of some sectors.

The duty of the state is to promote national safety, the safety of our people from terrorism and criminal activity, and to spur production, thus creating more employment, so that our resources stay in the country, create more jobs, stimulate private initiatives, and stimulate the participation of all Peruvians in our process of development.

[Reporter] What about the strike called by the CGTP [General Confederation of Peruvian Workers] and the CTP [Confederation of Peruvian Workers]?

[Garcia] I am the first to admit that this is a difficult year. Today we are paying the price for 2 years of high growth rates. We raised salaries and promoted economic activity through an increase in demand and production at a very important rate. But Peru cannot continue to grow at the same speed. We have to slow down consumption, produce more for export, and earn more dollars. Then we will be able to resume growth.

It is important to stand firm and not go back on our achievements. Workers, businessmen, and the people had more in 1986 and 1987 than in 1985 and everyone was happy. But the country did not produce enough in exports to continue fueling this growth. Today we have applied the brakes so that we can grow again tomorrow. This is a fact that has to be perfectly understood.

I repeat that this is a difficult year because our exports were not growing fast enough and we were consuming our reserves. Before continuing with this trend we preferred to slow down our accelerated rate of growth a bit. This is what the population is feeling today.

Salaries were raised to create more purchasing power during 1986 and 1987. Today we are trying to prevent inflation from increasing at uncontrollable rates.

I believe 1989 will be a good year, similar to 1986 and 1987.

[Reporter] Political analyst are very concerned about projections of a 400-percent inflation rate. Some of then even talk of rates as high as 500 or even 1500 percent. Does this concern the government too?

[Garcia] Some of our neighboring countries have inflation rates close to 1000 percent, yet they maintain great industrial development and a high standard of living. Inflation is a problem, alright, but it is not a good reason to stop growth or reduce national production.

It is important to maintain production levels, with or without inflation. It is also important to maintain the purchasing power of salaries and the standard of living of those who depend on the state. We have a high inflation rate today, but the situation will change. We should not be so pessimistic and think that everything has been lost. Just remember 1986 and 1987. I repeat, we are making necessary economic adjustments from which we will be able to start growing again. [passage omitted]

Arms Detained in Venezuela Destined for Police

PY2507145788 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0250 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Text] Lima, 24 Jul (EFE)—Today the Peruvian Interior Ministry disclosed that the Peruvian Government has begun negotiations with Venezuelan authorities to resolve the problem of a Polish vessel that was detained in the port of Maracaibo, Venezuela, while transporting a shipment of weapons for Peru.

The communique issued by the Interior Ministry states that the shipment being transported by the "Kuznica" vessel is the second consignment of a contract signed by Peru and the GDR in September 1987 for the purchase of weapons and ammunition for the Peruvian police forces.

The communique adds that the Peruvian representatives of the Polish state shipping company "Polish Ocean Lines" have disclosed that the vessel docked in San Juan, Puerto Rico, to unload merchandise, but that it was prevented from doing so by the U.S. authorities.

The communique states that the reason for this was that U.S. laws prohibit the arrival of vessels transporting arms and ammunition from member countries of the Warsaw Pact, and the vessel was forced to continue its journey to Maracaibo. The vessel was detained there because it did not have the necessary authorization to enter the port.

The first shipment of weapons was sent last 21 February and was duly received without any problems by the Peruvian police.

The purchase agreement was signed by the Interior Ministry and the GDR state enterprise "Import Export Gesellschaft MBM-IMES"—according to the communique—and the two shipments were sent to the port of Rostock, bound for the port of Callao, Lima.

Today Peruvian President Alan Garcia told the media that he had tried to contact his Venezuelan counterpart, Jaime Lusinchi, by telephone to explain what it was all about, but that he was not in Caracas.

New U.S. Helicopters To Join War on Drugs

PY2507154888 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Two new U.S. helicopters have arrived to Lima to join the fight against drug traffickers and will operate in the Peruvian jungles. The helicopters arrived last week. They are currently undergoing test flights before being assigned to the central Peruvian jungles.

General Juan Zarate Gambini, chief of DIRCOTE [Antiterrorist Directorate], said the helicopters will be flown to Tingo Maria, where three other U.S. helicopters that arrived last March are based. The two helicopters are presently kept at the Air Police base near Jorge Chaves International Airport. [passage omitted]

The important civic action of the Peruvian Air Force, FAP, in the vast Amazonian regions will be reinforced this year with the arrival of new Buffalo planes.

The report was released by General Jorge Valdes Caperino, chief of the Air Force Area 5, based in Iquitos, during yesterday's celebration of Peruvian Air Force day. The FAP units operating from Air Group 42 cover a large area with its twin, Buffalo, and Pilatus Porter planes. [passage omitted]

Venezuela

Haiti's Manigat Blames U.S. for Coup

PA2607010088 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 2257 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Report by Edward Holland]

[Excerpts] Caracas, 25 Jul (REUTER)—Today overthrown Haitian President Leslie Manigat said the lack of economic support from the United States and other Western countries accelerated the end of his short-lived civilian government.

Manigat also said the 20 June military coup d'etat that overthrew him represented a step backward, but not the end of Haiti's democratic process.

"While we were in power, we proved democracy is possible in Haiti," Manigat said during a news conference held in Venezuela. [passage omitted]

The exiled president said even though the Western democracies offered their verbal support, they did not offer the economic help the country needed to carry out its development programs.

Manigat specifically referred to the United States and Canada when he said "the absence of North American aid was the weakening factor in the efforts to democratize the country."

The overthrown president added that for many years, Washington's help had been a decisive factor in the planning of Haiti's economy. "Unfortunately, we did not receive a single cent in U.S. aid, and that was a disadvantage for us."

Manigat told reporters that even though the White House and the State Department had supported his government, the U.S. Congress never lifted the economic sanctions imposed after the suspension of the November elections, during which 34 people were killed.

Leftist Group Nominates Presidential Candidate

PA2607032888 Paris AFP in Spanish
2313 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Caracas, 25 Jul (AFP)—Today the leftist "Alliance for All" nominated psychiatrist Edmundo Chirinos as its presidential candidate. The Alliance is comprised of the pro-Soviet Communist Party of Venezuela (PCV), the People's Electoral Movement (MEP), the Independent Moral Movement [Movimiento Moral Independiente], and other groups. [passage omitted]